

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

50¢

# Rebuilding an army

U.S. forces tasked with training Iraqi troops report progress, but no definite end in sight

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## Caring for the wounded

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Sgt. Joey Bozik, shown with wife Jayme, lost parts of his legs and right arm when his Humvee rolled over a bomb in Iraq. But Bozik says he has never been happier because he has married Jayme.

ETHAN HYMAN/The (Raleigh, N.C.) News and Observer

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Milosevic's popularity grows:** The popularity of former President Slobodan Milosevic has surged in Serbia largely because the democratic authorities who toppled him in 2000 have failed to meet popular expectations, an opinion poll suggested Thursday.

Nearly 34 percent of Serbs now think positively of Milosevic, compared to about 20 percent in April 2002 and 29 percent in September last year, according to the survey conducted by the independent Faktor Plus polling agency.

**Germany visa scandal:** Germany's parliament opened hearings Thursday in Berlin into allegations that visa rules for which Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer has accepted "political responsibility" encouraged an influx of criminals and women who were forced into prostitution.

Fischer was expected to testify in the inquiry, which could undermine his standing as Germany's most popular politician.

Opposition spokeswoman Ingrid Giese, German diplomats in eastern Europe, notably in Ukraine, gave many visas without background checks under a 2000 policy directive from Fischer's ministry.

**Togo's leadership questioned:** Togo's new military-installed president flew to Nigeria on Thursday for talks with President Olusegun Obasanjo, who is leading regional efforts to reverse the Togolese leader's army-backed succession to power. Faure Gnassingbe was immediately ushered into closed-door talks with Obasanjo upon his arrival.

Togo's military announced Gnassingbe's appointment to the presidency on Feb. 5, hours after his father — 38-year Togo ruler Gnassingbe Eyadema — died.

**Pakistani PM attack:** Pakistani police said Thursday they are holding a suspected Islamic militant in connection with last year's failed suicide attack against the country's prime minister.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz survived the attack when a suicide bomber's car exploded up near his car on July 30 in Faten Jang, near the capital. Nine people, including Aziz's driver, died in the attack.

On Thursday, Zafar Iqbal, police chief in Attock, said that they are holding a man named Salman "for playing a key role in the attack" against Aziz, but he would not elaborate.

**Nepal political crisis:** King Gyanendra on Thursday announced the formation of an anti-graft commission that will be given broad powers to investigate and jail corrupt politicians and government bureaucrats under Nepal's sweeping state of emergency. Amnesty International, meanwhile, warned Thursday that the king's moves were destroying human rights and taking the country to the "brink of disaster" — a charge the government denies.

The group's secretary general, Irene Khan, called on donor nations to suspend military aid to Nepal's government to pressure it to change its policies.

**Tsunami recovery:** A powerful earthquake sent tsunami survivors fleeing from buildings in Indonesia's hard-hit Aceh province on Thursday, while Australia said its helicopters will soon return home as the focus



**Russia school seizure:** A man carries an injured child who escaped from a seized school in Beslan, North Ossetia, on Sept. 3, 2004. Parents of children killed in the seizure renewed calls for the resignation of the regional President Alexander Dzasokhov on Thursday, saying the government is rife with corruption and bribery, and warning of repeat terror attacks.

of relief efforts shifts from emergency aid to rebuilding.

Thursday's quake was the latest in a series of aftershocks that have hit the region since the 9.0-magnitude earthquake on Dec. 26 triggered the tsunami. There were no immediate reports of injury or damage.

**Alleged terror chief trial:** Alleged terror chief Abu Bakar Bashir told a court in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Thursday he was being framed by President Bush for supporting Islam and that he had nothing to do with a string of deadly bombings in Indonesia.

Bashir, the alleged leader of the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, is charged with inspiring his followers to carry out the Bali and J.W. Marriott hotel bombings.

The pop star returned to a court to sentence him to eight years in jail — far short of the maximum death penalty allowed under Indonesian law.

## States

**Jackson hospitalized:** Michael Jackson was recovering from flu symptoms and was in good spirits after a short hospital stay that prompted another delay in his child molestation trial, a doctor said.

The pop star returned to his Neverland ranch in California on Wednesday after spending a night at the hospital, according to Jackson spokeswoman Raymone K. Bain.

**Elizabeth Smart kidnapping:** The drifter and self-proclaimed prophet accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart was removed from his competency hearing twice for singing a religious song — the third time he has done that in court in recent months.

Brian David Mitchell, 51, and his wife, Wanda Barzee, 59, are charged with kidnapping, sexual assault and burglary in the 2002 abduction of the teenager.

Judge Judith Atherton allowed the competency hearing to continue without Mitchell.

**Florida election laws:** The Florida secretary of state's office Wednesday proposed changing election law to give voters more privacy at polling sites — and give those who cast provisional ballots a week, instead of two days, to prove their eligibility.

The measures would also establish the secretary — the current officeholder is Republican Glenda Hood — as the ultimate referee when disputes arise from different interpretations of election law by county supervisors.

The proposals appear to give the secretary sweeping powers and could create a showdown with the 67 county supervisors.

**Right-to-life case:** Family and supporters of a severely brain-damaged woman at the center of a right-to-die case kicked off a protest and lobbying campaign to block removal — perhaps by next week — of a feeding tube that helps keep the woman alive.

With legal options dwindling, the parents of Terri Schiavo, Bob and Mary Schindler, have turned to the founder of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, Randall Terry, who said he would again lobby Gov. Jeb Bush to intervene.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already declined to step in and keep Schiavo hooked to a feeding tube.

## War on terrorism

**Gitmo prisoner torture claim:** An Australian man suspect freed from Guantanamo Bay last month was probably tortured during his detention, a leading psychiatrist said Wednesday after examining him.

Egyptian-born Mamdouh Habib was released without charge from the U.S. military base in Cuba last month more than three years after his arrest in Pakistan in 2001. Habib claimed he was sent to Egypt, where he was tortured daily for six months before arriving at Guantanamo Bay in 2002.

Stories and photo from the Associated Press

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# Army unit bound for a year in Afghanistan

## 44th Signal Battalion has brief ceremony with family

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY  
Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — The bleachers in the old gymnasium rattled as the crowd rose to join the departing soldiers in a spirited rendition of the Army song.

As mass, amateur performances go, it was pretty good, certainly loud and clear enough to hear the familiar refrain: "You will always know, that the Army goes rolling along."

Like many military communities these days, Mannheim has been riding the deployment cycle for some time. Soldiers come and soldiers go, families stay, and the balancing act begins anew.

On Wednesday, members of the 44th Signal Battalion rolled up their guidon at a brief farewell ceremony. About 225 soldiers are deploying to Afghanistan for a yearlong stint.

"I've been preparing for it," said Stephanie Jenkins, wife of Staff Sgt. Kenny Jenkins, a data man for Company B.

Meanwhile, the community has been organizing a welcome home and retreat ceremony for the 7th Signal Brigade, which returned in November after an 11-month stint in Iraq.

The event is more of celebra-

tion than anything else, with music, food and drinks on tap.

Wednesday's send-off for the 44th Signal Battalion lacked the immediacy of other separations. None of the soldiers who participated in the afternoon ceremony left home to catch a flight.

Some are due to depart as early as this weekend, while others won't leave until late March.

"We're ready," Kenny Jenkins said. "We've spent a lot of time training."

In addition to Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels, the signal battalion traveled to France this past year to hone its skills for the deployment.

The unit was in Normandy in June, providing communication links in support of ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Honor and tradition were among the themes raised at Wednesday's ceremony.

Remember those who have served, or are serving, Col. Jennifer Napper, the brigade commander, said in her remarks to the troops.

Though the 44th has been one of the busiest units around, and the road ahead may "become hard and tedious" at times, Napper said the troops would not tire.

Vernetta M. Lewis, the battal-



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Connie Cart leans over daughter Alaina to give her husband, Sgt. Jason Cart, a kiss while daughter Jayci, 2, seems distracted at Wednesday's deployment ceremony for the 44th Signal Battalion in Mannheim, Germany. At right is Alaina's best friend, Marie. The unit is headed to Afghanistan for a year.

ion's command sergeant major, gave a rousing speech in which she noted how hard the unit trained, sometimes in the rain and cold, snow and ice. "We trained, and sometimes we were drained, tired and [functioned on] limited sleep."

Given all the training and prep-

arations, Lewis said, the battalion "stands on a solid foundation."

The road to Afghanistan will come early for Staff Sgt. Juan Guevara.

He's slated to leave in the next couple of days. The deployment will be Guevara's third in five years.

"I'm nervous and a little bit scared," Guevara acknowledged as he tended to his 5-year-old daughter, Kayla, "but I'm confident in the command."

"We're trained and ready to go."

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## Kitzingen MP gets punk'd by AAFES

BY RICK EMERT  
Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Thomas Perez, you've just been punk'd.

The 212th Military Police Company soldier based in Kitzingen, Germany, took home a 42-inch TV worth \$3,499 from a Würzburg Post Exchange "Sony Plasma Sweepstakes Event" on Wednesday.

But only after getting the type of phone call that no parent wants to get from a PX manager.

To get Perez to the PX without giving away the surprise, the management called him and said that his oldest son, Eddie, 16, a straight-A student who had never been in trouble, had been caught shoplifting. Perez's commander, Capt. Ann Dunscomb, was a co-conspirator with the PX staff, said Stan McGhee, Würzburg PX general manager.

"I was furious," Perez said. "The whole way there I was wondering why my son would do something like that. I was getting more upset as I talked to the manager about it."



Photo courtesy of AAFES

Jack Morris, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Europe senior vice president, hugs Sgt. Thomas Perez, of the 212th Military Police Company, after Perez won a 42-inch plasma TV at the Würzburg Post Exchange on Wednesday. Lilla Barber, Würzburg main store manager, far left, and Ed Smith of Sony Corp. were on hand for the giveaway.

After a few minutes of keeping the gag going, Jack Morris, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Europe senior vice president, showed Perez the big-screen TV he had won.

"He asked me: 'How would you like to win this?'" Perez said. "I told him I would love to win it, but I was still thinking about my son shoplifting. He asked me if I remembered entering the contest

[in early February].

"Then he told me I won the TV. It took awhile to hit me that that was why they called me there. I thought my son was in trouble, and I won the TV. It was a relief that he wasn't in trouble. They got me good."

"The surprise and relief was, naturally, total and complete," McGhee said.

On Thursday, with his mammoth television already at home and plugged in, Perez had no hard feelings about the trick the PX management played on him.

"It's like a dream," Perez said. "I've always wanted one, but we have six kids, so we could never afford to buy one. I wish we could have won it before the Super Bowl, that would have been great."

He and his wife, Diana Perez, still can't believe their luck.

"We have to keep going in the room to see if it's still there, if we really won it," he said. "It's the first thing my wife checked [Thursday] morning."

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## 4 injured in helo crash

Four sailors were treated and released Wednesday from the hospital at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, after suffering minor injuries when their helicopter crashed on base, a Navy official said.

The MH-53 Sea Dragon, assigned to Sigonella's Helicopter Support Squadron 4, was on a training exercise when it crashed on the base's runway about 4:20 p.m., said Navy Lt. j.g. David Luckett, a spokesman for U.S. 6th Fleet.

The four sailors, whose names were not released, were treated at the Navy hospital. Luckett did not know details or the extent of their injuries, but said they were minor.

Wednesday's crash marks the third incident involving the MH-53 at Sigonella in the past two years. Four HC-4s died in July 2003 when their helicopter crashed during a training flight, and four were injured in another crash in August 2004.

U.S. and Italian investigators are probing the cause of the crash, Luckett said. The squadron provides heavy helicopter combat support to the fleet in the Adriatic theater.

From staff reports

# Navy adds to bonuses re-enlistment jobs

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy added seven ratings to its extensive list of jobs for which sailors can collect the Selective Re-enlistment Bonus if they commit to stay Navy.

Added to the list of 70 ratings are quartermaster, cryptographic technician technical, engineer, damage controlman, hull technician and some aviation boatswain's mate ratings. Some of the bonuses are tied to how long the sailor has been in the Navy.

Eligibility in the newly added ratings was effective Feb. 1.

While the maximum payout for the added ratings is a \$45,000 bonus, a six-year commitment, not all sailors who re-enlist will qualify for the top payout, said Lt. Kyle Raines, Navy Personnel Command spokesman.

"Two [cryptologists] might get slightly

different bonuses based on when they came in, what their current pay is, and the multiple for that rating," Raines said, referring to a figure assigned to each rating and zone that personnel officials use to calculate bonus payouts.

The complete list of eligible ratings and the "multiple" by which officials calculate payouts is posted on the Navy Web site at: [www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Messages/NAVADMIN](http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Messages/NAVADMIN)

## Additions to bonus program

The Navy has added seven ratings to its Selective Re-enlistment Bonus program. Some of the bonuses are tied to the amount of time sailors are in the Navy.

Zone A are sailors with less than six years of service; zone B between six and 10 years of service; zone C from 10 to 14 years of service.

The re-enlistments: Quartermasters in zones A, B and C; Cryptographic technician technical, zones B and C; Aviation boatswain's mate fuel, zone A; Aviation boatswain's mate handling, zone A; Engineer, zone A; Damage controlman, zone A; Hull technicians, zone A

Ns/Message Details/020-05.htm.

Re-enlistment bonuses provide incentive for sailors, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Heidi Davis, 32, a cryptologist assigned to the USS La Salle, the former flagship of the Navy's 6th Fleet.

The bonuses make the targeted work forces stronger by letting "the Navy hang on to people with the skills and experience, and motivates others to get training and be an asset to the

Navy as well," said Davis, a sailor for nearly six years.

On the flip side, the Navy has eliminated some jobs that once qualified for the SRB and decreased the bonus payout levels for 31 others, Raines said.

The decreases go into effect March 3, so sailors eligible to re-enlist will want to do so now before the payouts decrease next month, he said.

"The SRB program is another example of our Human Capital Strategy's aim to ensure we have the right sailors, with the right skills, in the right jobs and this program helps us achieve that goal," the chief of naval personnel, Vice Adm. Gerry Hoenig, said in a statement. "It is a flexible incentive for the Navy to encourage retention in ratings where skilled sailors are needed and in turn provides those sailors with greater financial compensation."

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# New program gives some sailors early-out option

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy has approved a new early-out option for many sailors due to get out of the service before Oct. 1.

The "Early Transition Program" allows certain sailors to leave the Navy, but they must go by Aug. 15, said Master Chief Petty Officer Doug DeVault, an enlisted manpower manager for Navy's chief of personnel.

Sailors whose active contract ends before Oct. 1, the start of the military's new fiscal year, are eligible to apply, said DeVault. It could shave as much as six

months off of contracts for those who apply now.

The program expands an existing policy that allows sailors to leave the Navy, with their commander's permission, as much as 90 days early.

Traditionally, early-out requests must be linked to set of approved reasons, such plans to go to college. That's not so with the new policy. Sailors don't need a reason, but their boss still has to give the OK.

Unit commanders will still be able to disapprove requests, he said, but even if the commander approves, final approval rests with Navy headquarters.

Sailors in a few specialties, however, are not eligible, DeVault said. Excluded are:

- Specialties with Selective Re-enlistment Bonus. "If a sailor is SRB eligible or currently drawing an SRB, we're not letting them go. That's a critical skill and we need those people to stick around," DeVault said.

- Special Operations. SEALs, Explosive Ordnance Disposal experts, Special Surface Warfare Combatant Crewman and divers are not eligible.

- No Nukes. Anyone with a rating in nuclear propulsion systems is not eligible.

- Stop-loss ratings. While the

Navy currently has no specialties affected by stop loss, officials "throw this in as a catch-all, in case we do have another stop loss," DeVault said.

Commanders who sign off on requests likely won't see that sailors or their replacement quickly.

"The CO has to agree to gap the billet up until the sailors projected rotation date or their [end of active service obligation date]," DeVault said.

The new policy follows a similar extended transition program offered last year that saw some 1,250 sailors get out a few months early. Because last year's offering included sailors with end-of-ser-

vices dates that went into this year, many that might have been interested have already signed up, he said.

Officials estimate about 500 sailors will take advantage of the new program. "But that's by no means a quota," he added.

The early out offering also comes as the Navy is preparing to cut its force levels from 13,000 sailors next year. Officials hoping it will help stem attrition down those numbers now.

"As we get smaller, the jobs go away. If the member is in an excess billet out there, there's really no sense in him sticking around," DeVault said.

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# Hagee: Cultural training needed to deal with globally funded insurgents

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. service members in Iraq need more training — especially cultural training — to deal with a globally funded and highly sophisticated insurgency, the Marine Corps commandant told lawmakers Thursday.

The comments came as Navy and Marine officials outlined to Congress their 2006 budget requests, which includes more funding for troops' training and almost doubles bonuses for individuals with language skills. Those start at \$100 a month for active duty personnel.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee said little has changed in the combat tactics and physical demands of fighting insurgents over the years. But to more effectively anticipate their movements and plans, a new emphasis must be placed on understanding their motives and background.

"[The insurgents] today are globalized. They are able to coordinate worldwide, able to communicate worldwide and raise money worldwide," he said. "That's sig-



Gen. Michael Hagee

nificantly different than in the interwar period between World War I and World War II."

Over the last five years, the Army and Navy have placed a greater emphasis on education, both before and after troops enter the service.

Hagee said about 97 percent of Marines are high school graduates, and new efforts are under

way to provide them with more continuing education opportunities, both at home and while deployed.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark reiterated plans to recruit higher-educated sailors because of the ever increasing complexity of the Navy's systems.

"I've told our people we're not competing against the Marines or the Army or the Air Force for people. We're actually competing against Fortune 500 companies that want the same kind of people we want," he said. "We've told our people, 'If you're going to get promoted, you're going to have to have degrees.'"

Gordon England, secretary of the Navy, admitted the service "probably started too late" in emphasizing the importance of education in its servicemenbers, but he is pleased with recent efforts to change that attitude.

The Navy's proposed \$125.6 billion budget, up \$6.4 billion from last year, also includes proposals to reduce the carrier fleet from 12 to 11 ships and reduce submarine production next year from two to one.

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## Ready Crucible exercise



RIKHARD BAUMGARTNER/Courtesy of US Army

An M1A1 Abrams tank from the 1st Brigade of V Corps' 1st Armored Division rolls through a forest area in the Taunus region north of Frankfurt, Germany, as part of the division's ongoing exercise Ready Crucible. About 800 soldiers are taking part in the exercise, which is designed to train combat tasks such as convoy operations and reacting to ambushes.



# Reserves will have to wait to replace gear left for combat

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Reserve and National Guard units that leave equipment behind in Iraq and Afghanistan will have to wait more than a year before they get replacement gear, according to the civilian chief of the Reserve components.

Cash to buy the gear is earmarked in the Pentagon's budget request for next year, as well as the supplemental request for this year's war spending, said Tom Hall, assistant Defense Secretary for Reserve Affairs, told a gathering of reporters Thursday in Washington.

Both requests are now being debated in Congress.

If approved, that money will allow units commanders "to start resetting... the equipment left behind," said Hall.

But even if both requests are approved in short order, it will take 12 to 18 months before the new gear shows up, said Hall. And even then, he added, "there are questions about whether it will be enough."

Most Guard and Reserve units serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have been handling everything from trucks and Humvees to tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles to follow-on forces.

Hall said the equipment gap between when units return from the war zones and are able to begin training again back in their home station is finding readiness concerns.

"If you leave your equipment in Iraq," said Hall, that means "you don't have equipment... to train on."

Asked about the issue during testimony on Capitol Hill, Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Richard Myers noted the same problem.

"There will be a lag time where units are below the desired levels of readiness," said Myers.

"It also impacts the training of units going forward," added Myers, explaining that in many cases units now downrange had to cobble together equipment from other units now facing their

own deployments.

Also, he said, the equipment shuffle complicates Pentagon promises that troops "will train with the equipment they're going to use in country."

## Recruiting woes

Meanwhile, said Hall, the majority of the Reserve components are struggling with recruiting efforts.

"The ground truth on where we stand right now, in first four months of the fiscal year, is that only the Marine Corps Reserve has met its recruiting goals," said Hall.

Hall said he expects the Army Guard and Reserve in particular "will continue to have a



Hall

challenging year."

The Army National Guard is currently at 95 percent of its authorized strength and the Army Reserve has dipped to 97 percent.

When asked about Reserve recruiting, Myers told Congressional leaders Thursday that he was keeping a careful eye on the trends.

"While we ought to be concerned about this, it's not a time to panic at this point," Myers told senators. "We're going to watch this very closely because the last thing we want to end up with is a hollow force."

To help turn the tide, said Hall, the services have surged an additional 2,300 Guard and Reserve recruiters into communities.

Hall said he's also backing efforts to offer new enlistment bonuses for as much as \$15,000.

"If we can go from \$2,400 to \$15,000 I think that could make a bit of difference," said Hall.

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STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

As a chaplain gives an invocation, soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's headquarters staff bow their heads in prayer at a brief welcome-home ceremony just after midnight Thursday in Würzburg, Germany.

# Würzburg welcome homes 1st ID headquarters staff

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — The boss is back.

Two days after turning control of its sector of Iraq over to the 42nd Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. John Batiste led 91 members of his 1st Infantry Division headquarters staff home to a midnight reunion with families in snowbound Würzburg late Wednesday night. Another 128 returned Thursday.

"Soldiers, well done," Batiste said, during brief remarks to the soldiers and their families.

Fifty-three weeks earlier, the headquarters command had flown to Kuwait for a month of training in crowded holding camps before conveying north to Iraq. In mid-March, the Big Red One took control of a large, troubled sector of Iraq north and east of Baghdad from the 4th Infantry Division.

The headquarters staff lived mostly in the regal but shabby palaces of the former dictator Saddam Hussein in his hometown of Tikrit. The division fought and won significant battles in Baquba, Najaf, and Samarra and joined the Marines in the second successful assault on Fallujah.

At the same time, division troops supervised the construction of hundreds of schools, medical clinics and other buildings while training tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers and shepherding the country toward its first democratic elections last month. Still, though, attacks on U.S. and Iraqi troops increased throughout the year. More than 70 of the division's Europe-based soldiers died and about 900 were wounded.

"You entered the heart of darkness to bring the light of hope and the flame of freedom to a people long terrorized and oppressed," Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, rear detachment commander, told the troops.

The reunited families and soldiers were more than ready for the tour to end.

"It's been a pretty bad year," said Karen Stanley, who cared for her three children while her husband, Master Sgt. Chris Stanley, was in Iraq. "It's really nice this year is over — good to have them back."

"It's kind of indescribable," said Pvt. Cornell DeCoudre, 19, of Jeannerette, La. "You have soldiers who've been together for a year, and then they go back to their families. It makes you want to hug everybody."

Besides the 219 soldiers from the headquarters staff, 340 from other 1st ID commands flew home Wednesday and Thursday, a division spokeswoman said. The largest groups included 97 from the 299th Forward Support Battalion; 70 from the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment; and 51 from the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment. All are based in Schweinfurt.



Dressed in her best clothes and waving the flag, Lauren Stanley, 14 months, awaits the return of her father, Master Sgt. Chris Stanley, from Iraq. Lauren was only two months old when he left, said her mother, Karen Stanley.



Warren Thomas and Master Sgt. Regina Thomas sneak a homecoming kiss. Regina Thomas, of the 1st Infantry Division's headquarters company, returned home late Wednesday after a year in Iraq.

Kolenda said nearly one-half of the division — including most troops from Kitzingen, Schweinfurt, Würzburg and Katterbach — now is home. Over the next several weeks, the force will shift to Vilsbiburg as the 3rd Brigade Combat Team comes home to the base there.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estrpides.osd.mil

# Wife sentenced in U.S. for killing airman in Turkey

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A woman who killed her husband with a steak knife at a military air base in Turkey has been sentenced to eight years in prison.

Latasah Lorraine Arnt, who testified that she fatally stabbed Air Force Staff Sgt. Mathias Arnt III after he seemed about to strike her in a drunken rage, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in October following a retrial.

U.S. District Judge Percy Anderson said in sentencing Arnt on Wednesday that the 24-year-old woman was "troubled" and her testimony was "not credible."

Arnt, sobbing, told the judge before sentencing that she was "aware there are consequences for taking a person's life" and had made a mistake.

"I'm sorry for taking his life, but I didn't take his life out of anger or jealousy. I was scared and I panicked," she said.

Arnt was the first person prosecuted under a 5-year-old law that allows civilians accompanying military personnel to be tried in U.S. federal courts for crimes that take place on foreign soil, if the host country declines to prosecute.

Prosecutors had initially sought a conviction for second-degree murder, which carried a potential life sentence.

# The good - and bad - in helping hurt GIs



Soldiers gather Thursday in the processing center of the new Army medical facility on the Air National Guard Base in Birmingham, Ala. The military is seeing benefits to treating injured troops near their homes.

## Red tape traps some vets

By WES SMITH

The Orlando Sentinel

HINESVILLE, Ga. — Staff Sgt. Howard LeRoy Hizer made it back from Iraq with a "wage" Star in November 2003, but he's still fighting to get healthy and get home.

More than a year after the rest of his Florida National Guard unit returned to civilian life, the St. Cloud, Fla., reservist has a drawer full of medications, a Jeep with 265,000 miles on it and a bed in a 16-man trailer on a military base 300 miles from his family.

Hizer, 41, was called to active duty in December 2002 and served 11 months as an infantry-squad leader in the Persian Gulf before being sent to Fort Stewart, Ga., because of severe back and neck injuries.

He was hurt when he fell from a truck on its way to help a military-police unit that had been attacked.

The staff sergeant, an Osceola County volunteer firefighter who works at St. Cloud's wastewater-treatment plant in civilian life, is now into his second year of what the military calls "medical holdover." He gets his military pay and free treatment for his injuries, but except for the time he spends on leave, he can't return to his wife and two young children.

"He's very frustrated, and I'm beyond frustration," said his wife, Lynette Hizer, a registered nurse.

Col. Barbara Scherb of U.S. Army Forces Command in Atlanta acknowledged last week that at least 15 wounded or injured Iraq veterans who were among the first to arrive at Fort Stewart have been blocked from seeking treatment at home, even though other soldiers in similar circumstances have been allowed to do so.

The bureaucratic knot, which the colonel described as "every complex budgetary and statutory problem all wrapped up in le-

galese" should be untied by the end of February, the colonel said. She said efforts to untangle the red tape had been going on for a year.

The military spent millions to increase medical staff and to improve living conditions at Fort Stewart and other bases after injured Reserve and National Guard troops returning from Iraq complained to members of Congress about unequal and poor treatment in fall 2002.

Last spring, the Army also unveiled a \$23 million Community-Based Health Care Organization to relieve overburdened bases by allowing soldiers such as Hizer to get medical treatment near their homes.

Hizer, whose job is being held open for him by St. Cloud officials, has petitioned repeatedly to get into the community-care program, but so far his requests have been denied.

"I just want to get fixed so I can go home and pursue my job," he said. "It's almost like they want to wait you out until you just say you want to quit and go home."

Currently, 1,455 active-duty Guard and Reserve — of about 4,850 on medical-holdover status nationwide — are in the community-care program.

Hizer and others at Fort Stewart said the methodical and labyrinthine process seems more designed to drive Guard and Reserve veterans out of the military system.

Former National Guard 1st Lt. Ted Pratchios, 33, of Jacksonville was Hizer's platoon leader in Iraq. Pratchios recalled that he recommended Hizer for the Bronze Star based on his cool-headed leadership of his nine-man squad, often under fire.

"I can't believe he is still at Fort Stewart. It's like guys are being punished for being hurt," Pratchios said. "Certainly there is something not working the way it should be there."

## Community-based health care initiative a hit

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Sgt. Chris Dunbar was nursing a shattered jaw after fighting in Iraq. Upon arriving at Fort Stewart, Ga., he realized he would be stuck at the base for more than a year until his teeth and mouth fully healed.

What he wished was to go home to recover. The Army agreed.

Through the military's new community-based health care initiative, Dunbar was allowed to return home to Tampa, Fla., where he is being treated by an Air Force doctor and has family help while remaining on active duty.

"This is really a godsend," Dunbar said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The program in Florida is one of five established since January 2004 to serve injured National Guard and Reserve soldiers in 23 states. This month, a center opened in Birmingham, Ala., to evaluate the health care needs of soldiers in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky.

"The purpose is to allow soldiers to come back to their communities and receive medical care instead of at a military installation," said Alabama Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Bob Horton.

Each center has case workers who evaluate the soldiers' eligibility to return home and a nurse to monitor their progress.

The indefinite nature of the fighting in Iraq,

mounting injuries and multiple returns to combat by Guard and Reserve troops forced the Army to re-evaluate its health care policy, said Lt. Col. Ken Braddock, who oversees the community-based health care programs for most of the eastern states.

Fighting the war against terror is forcing part-time soldiers to take on full-time duties in Iraq. Army officials anticipated that the increasing injuries would surpass capacity at Army installations, though they haven't yet, said Col. Barbara Scherb, who manages the program.

"Initially, that's why the Army looked at a community-based option — to augment the medical capacity," said Scherb, who estimated the administrative costs of the program would reach \$23 million this year. But now the Army is seeing benefits for the treatment of soldiers, as well. Allowing troops to be treated near home can "get them to heal quicker," Braddock said.

To be eligible for the program, soldiers must remain on active duty. While they are treated near home, they also take on a military job so they get out and adjust to living in a civilian environment. Once soldiers have recovered from their injuries, they are released from active duty until their next scheduled mobilization.

Since January 2004, community-based health care centers have been established in Florida, Arkansas, California, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Alabama.

## Ghana official offers help in terror war

By RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — The head of Ghana's air force said his west African country would help America any way it can in the war on terrorism.

Air Vice Marshal Edward Apau Mantey, who has been in England since Monday visiting various units at RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath, said the two countries are friends and should cooperate against an enemy that threatens the entire world.

"We have common interests. We now live in a world of terrorism that knows no boundaries," Mantey said in an interview Wednesday evening. "It is good to make yourself available. We shall open our arms and give [America] the assistance that we can give."

Mantey made his comments after returning from a visit to Ram-

stein Air Base, Germany, with Maj. Gen. Michael C. Gould, commander of 3rd Air Force, which has its headquarters at RAF Mildenhall. Mantey is in England at Gould's invitation.

Mantey's air force could help mainly by opening its bases to American aircraft. His service is small — "a couple transport planes, a couple helicopters," is how Mantey described it. He declined to provide the number of personnel in the air force.

But Gould said the offer is genuine and could be beneficial as America pursues terrorism wherever the fight takes it.

"Ghana and America share the same interests in the war on terror," he said. "We share stakes in the result."

A focus of 3rd Air Force is sub-Saharan Africa, and Gould views the continent regularly to forge relationships with military

and political leaders. An upcoming trip in March will take him as far as South Africa, among other stops.

Gould visited Ghana last fall, he said, and was shown the "well-disciplined, well-trained" air force led by Mantey.

"If our Air Force needs anything that Ghana could provide ... I could call my friend Marshal Mantey and he would respond," Gould said. "He knows he can do likewise."

Mantey, 58, has been shown nearly every nook and cranny of the Air Force mission in England. On Tuesday, he was aboard a C-130 belonging to the 352nd Special Operations Group when it was refueled by a KC-135 from the 100th Air Refueling Wing.

He called that a highlight that will "linger in my mind for a very long time."

"The most impressive aspect of



VALERIE SMITH/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Capt. Travis Clovis, 21st Special Operations Squadron, center, gives Air Vice Marshal Edward Mantey, chief of air staff for Ghana's air force, left, a tour of an MH-53M Pave Low helicopter during a visit to RAF Mildenhall, England. Mantey visited RAF Mildenhall, RAF Lakenheath, England, and Ramstein Air Base, Germany, this week as a guest of 3rd Air Force.

[the visit] is the dedication of the officers and men and women that I've encountered here and at Ramstein," he said.

Gould said the U.S. Air Force has already done some training with airmen from Ghana. There is

opportunity for further training in maintenance, scheduling issues, flight safety and the development of a senior noncommissioned officer corps.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.strips.esd.mil

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# Triple amputee copes with life after war

BY VALERIE BAUERLEIN  
Raleigh News & Observer

WASHINGTON — Joey Bozick crosses his one arm over his body, rifles his backpack for his pillbox. He flips the compartment with his thumb, throws back his head and pops the morphine pill into his mouth. His wife, Jayme, does not reach to help him.

She stands behind his wheelchair, ruffling his buzz cut. The silver ring on her left hand, gleaming like a chrome bumper, is identical to the one on his left.

They are in their temporary home, a room on the grounds of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. They are smiling.

"I'll tell you this much," said Bozick, one of the Iraq war's three triple amputees. "I've never been happier in my whole life."

Bozick, 26, shipped out last March to Iraq. He was in the desert, in a tent with nine guys, the military police officers he led.

On Oct. 27, he was riding through the desert south of Baghdad when his Humvee rolled over a bomb. His buddies were OK. But Joey lost his right leg above the knee. His left leg, at the knee. His right arm, at the elbow.

They sent him to Germany, to the hospital. Then they sent him home. He woke up in the amputee ward in Walter Reed, in Washington. His girlfriend Jayme, 25, was there.

He hurt where his arm and legs used to be. His foot hurt so badly he thought it was broken. He doesn't remember it, but Jayme does. She stayed most nights in the hospital room.

He could not feed himself, go to the bathroom, turn a page.

Family came. Friends. His mother, Gail, packed three outfits and stayed three months. She cared for him as he became a child all over again, learning to crawl, to sit, to eat.

One day, he sent them all out, all but Jayme.

He told her she was free to go, that he loved her and he always would. She said, as long as you have your head and your heart, that's all I need.

They married on New Year's Eve in the hospital chapel.

People donated a cake, a limo, a suite at the Four Seasons Hotel with couches and champagne and a bathroom made of marble.

She has a job now, an internship as an exercise physiologist at the National Naval Medical Center in nearby Bethesda, Md. It is her last requirement for graduation from Texas A&M University.

He has a job, too, of sorts. Physical therapy, to build his strength and prepare for prosthetic legs. Occupational therapy, to learn to use a wheelchair, to cook one-handed, to write. Doctors' visits, as he prepares for surgeons to remove the metal plate that is bolstering his left wrist. And social work, to sort through the paperwork and aid agreements that come with disability.

Bozick said he's lucky to have gotten injured after his wild days were spent. He sees 18- or 19-year-old amputees in rehab, in the dining hall. They have not had the life he had.

They do not have the girl he has.



ETHAN HYMAN/The (Raleigh, N.C.) News and Observer

"I can't be in a room without touching her," says Sgt. Joey Bozick of his wife, Jayme. The two were married December 31, two months after Bozick lost both legs and an arm in an explosion in Iraq. Even as a triple amputee, Bozick says he has never been happier, because he has married the woman he loves.

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# Iraqi commission certifies election results

By CHRIS TOMLINSON

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi people have elected a new democratic parliament, the first in 50 years, but a new government is officials said Thursday.

Iraq's electoral commission certified the results of the country's Jan. 30 elections on Thursday, and Shiite political parties hold the majority of seats, as expected.

But wrangling over who will become prime minister may take days or even weeks to resolve, several people close to the talks said.

The clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance won 140 seats, giving it a slight majority in the 275-member parliament. But a two-thirds majority — or 182 seats — is needed to confirm the next president, two vice presidents, the prime minister and his cabinet.

Alli Hashim al-Youshaa, one of the alliance's leaders, said the coalition has recruited eight lawmakers from other political parties to join their block in parliament, and that talks were underway to recruit many more to reach the two-thirds majority needed.

There is no timetable for convening the new National Assembly and the current government will work with the incoming law-



AP

**Kurdish supporters speed through the streets waving Kurdish flags and brandishing portraits of Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani as they celebrate a strong electoral result, in Kirkuk, Iraq, after results for the Iraqi general election were announced. Wrangling over who will become prime minister is delaying the new government from taking over in Iraq.**

makers to set a date to convene. But even once the assembly meets, there is no deadline for appointing a largely ceremonial president and two vice presidents, who will in turn appoint the prime minister.

Most observers don't expect the assembly to appoint the president until there is consensus on who will be prime minister and who will be in the cabinet, be-

cause once the president is appointed, a prime minister must be named within two weeks.

The two leading candidates to be the alliance's nominee are interim Vice President Ibrahim al-Jaafari and Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmad Chalabi. But current Prime Minister Ayad Alawi, whose secular party won 40 seats, insists he is still in the running as a compromise candidate.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, Feb. 16, at least 1,470 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,113 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 11 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two soldiers died in a vehicle accident Wednesday in Iraq's Babil province.

■ A soldier died of a non-combat injury Wednesday at a base near Tikrit.

■ A soldier died in a vehicle accident Wednesday in Iraq's Diyala province.

■ A soldier died in a vehicle accident Wednesday near Balad.

■ A soldier was killed Tuesday during security operations in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

## Ads in Pakistan appeal for leads on bin Laden

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A television and radio campaign offering a \$25 million reward for information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden hit the airwaves in Pakistan this week in a U.S.-government funded drive for leads about the al-Qaida leader.

The 30-second television spot flashes photographs of bin Laden and 13 other top terror suspects, including his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri and Taliban leader Mullah Omar, with an emotional appeal for help in bringing them to justice.

The spot makes no direct reference to the U.S. government, a reflection of continued resentment of the United States by many in this Islamic nation of 150 million despite close official ties between Islamabad and Washington in the war on terror.

President Bush has the option to double the reward for the al-Qaida chief to \$50 million.

From the Associated Press

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U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment officers and a masked Iraqi interpreter, left, question an Iraqi boy on Thursday while investigating a series of roadside bombs that happened Wednesday in Mosul, Iraq. Two other roadside bombs detonated near Baghdad and Kirkuk on Thursday as Army convoys passed.

# 7 Iraqi troops hurt in attack on U.S. convoy

BY TODD PITMAN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents detonated a bomb Thursday as a convoy of U.S. troops and Iraqi National Guardsmen traveled on a northern road, wounding seven Iraqi troops, an Iraqi commander said.

The attack occurred in Hawija, on the main road running north to Kirkuk, said Maj. Gen. Anwar-Mohammed Amin. No Americans were wounded in the attack, he said.

Meanwhile, a Swedish citizen kidnapped in Iraq appeared in a video with a gun pointed at his head, appealing to the Pope and Sweden's king to help bring about his release from insurgents, Swedish media reported.

On the main highway north of Baghdad, attackers targeting a U.S. convoy set off a car bomb about 25 miles from the capital, damaging one vehicle but causing no casualties, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

Three Iraqis were wounded when American troops opened fire to disperse a crowd following the explosion, police said. U.S. officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

In western Baghdad, Iraq and U.S. forces launched a joint raid, detaining seven suspected insurgents, Interior Ministry Capt. Sabah Yasin said.

Also Thursday, gunmen

opened fire on patrolling Iraqi National Guard troops in Hillah, 60 miles south of the capital, sparking a gunfight that killed two suspected insurgents, Maj. Fatik Iyid said. Three Iraqi guardsmen were wounded in clash.

A group calling itself "Martyr of al-Isawi Brigades" said it kidnapped the Swede of Iraqi descent as he traveled from Mosul to Baghdad earlier this month.

Part of the video, which was aired by Swedish broadcaster SVT, showed al-Yousifi sitting on his knees, with the barrel of an AK-47 rifle pointed at the side of his head as he spoke in Arabic.

Al-Yousifi is the purported leader of the Christian Democratic Party in Iraq, which did not participate in Iraq's Jan. 30 elections. Sweden's Foreign Ministry confirmed that he was kidnapped, but had no comment about the videotape.

Late Wednesday in western Baghdad, security guards for Shiite Muslim worshippers shot dead a man they said was readying to detonate an explosive-laden belt he was wearing, police Capt. Talib Thahir said.

The Shiites were celebrating the Islamic holy month of Muharram.

Ashoura, the 10th day of Muharram and the holiest day of the Shiite Muslim calendar, falls on Saturday this year and marks the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad, in a 7th century battle for leadership of the Islamic world.

## 'Chemical Ali' linked to massacres

BAGHDAD — Recently gathered information links one of Saddam Hussein's most notorious former generals to the massacres of Shiites in southern Iraq and could result in new charges against the man who allegedly ordered the use of poisonous gas against Kurds in the north, a human rights group said Thursday.

Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali," was involved in the massacre of at least 34 Shiite Muslim men in the southern city of Basra in 1999, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a new report.

"Al-Majid's role in the genocide against the Kurds is well-known, but it appears his hands are dirty in Basra in 1999 as well," Joe Stroh, director of group's Middle East and North Africa division, said in a statement.

Investigators interviewed victims, family members and eyewitnesses, and also examined documents and evidence from mass graves, the group said.

## Trial of British troops winding down

OSNABRUECK, Germany — Prosecutors began their closing arguments Thursday at the court-martial of three British soldiers being tried for alleged abuses in Iraq, saying the men were not scapegoats in a case that caused dismay in Britain.

The three Royal Regiment of Fusiliers soldiers have been on trial since Jan. 18 at a British base in western Germany. Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, 33; Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, 25; and Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, face charges that they abused Iraqi civilians suspected of looting a humanitarian aid warehouse outside Basra in May 2003.

The camp's commander has sought to portray the defendants as rogue soldiers who without his knowledge went beyond his order to capture looters and "work them hard" as a deterrent. But defense lawyers have argued that his instructions were vague and invited misunderstanding, and that he encouraged an undisciplined atmosphere.

From The Associated Press

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# Training Iraqi troops is slow going for U.S.

## Some say effort may take decade

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Iraq** — Two years after it disbanded Saddam Hussein's military, the U.S. Army is trying to build a new Iraqi army.

The sooner that fledgling army can take care of itself and protect its country, the sooner U.S. troops can go home, military leaders said.

But don't pack your bags yet. U.S. trainers say American soldiers could be in Iraq for the next decade, a sobering assessment of a fragmented, though rapidly evolving, effort.

"It's a five-to-10-year solution," said 1st Sgt. J. T. Brown. Until last month, Brown was the commander and a trainer at The Island, technically the 4th Iraqi Army Division Training Academy — a training facility near Tikrit.

It will be years before the new army will have the skills or the leadership to lift the security burden off U.S. troops, trainers said. But the situation is improving.

The Iraqi soldiers who graduated from The Island last month were some of the best U.S. trainers have seen, said Brown and Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Taylor, who also worked as a trainer.

Training at The Island includes basic soldiering skills, such as marksmanship, weapons care and maintenance. Marksmanship is a large portion, said Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division commanding general in an interview Sunday.

"We've established marksmanship standards [for recruits] ... and we've gotten millions and millions of rounds of ammunition," Batiste said. Recruits are learning "to fire three aimed rounds versus 300 sprayed over the top of a wall, which is what they were doing," Batiste said.

Some combat techniques, such as how to lay down suppressing fire or cover fire, are also taught.

But unlike at U.S. Army boot camp, U.S. trainers at The Island devote much of their time trying to ease ethnic and religious tensions, the residue of Saddam's corrupt, divide-and-rule culture.

Trainers throw together Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, and it takes recruits time to get comfortable with one another.

"We have the periodic nosebleed, but by the end of the week, they're hugging each other ... after working as a team," Brown said.

In addition, trainers try to teach things such as rules of engagements, civil rights, laws of war and ethics.

The Island is one of perhaps a dozen training operations across Iraq, but programs are not standardized.

"Everyone is teaching different things," said Maj. Donald McCardle, with the 42nd Infantry Division.

Recruits — many uneducated men from rural areas — often take training would last two weeks instead of four, and that they can go home in the afternoons, Brown said.

Trainers worry soldiers motivated by money, not pride in the country, "may not give 100 percent effort in training which ... may cost them their lives in combat," Brown added.

Plus, the recruits who do turn into "super, squared-away soldiers" end up in Iraqi units with no real noncommissioned officer corps and no chain of command — an environment that sometimes punishes rather than encourages initiative, Brown said.

Despite all the start-up glitches, the trainers agree they're seeing steady progress.

There are plans for advanced NCO training comparable to Primary Leadership Development Course. But there is nothing similar to large-scale field exercises such as the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Much is left up to American units who coach and mentor the Iraqi soldiers as they integrate into units fighting alongside U.S. troops.

With limited time resources and training infrastructure, trainers at The Island have to settle for producing "the best soldiers we can," Brown said. That's not merely the new policy mandate out of Washington, trainers say.

"That's the only hope for the future of this country," Brown said. "The future of Iraq is right here."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.strips.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Iraqi troops showed a lot of energy but not much polish during a graduation ceremony. It remains to be seen, say American officers and trainers, if Iraqis can transform themselves into an effective fighting force.

## Finding stability, good leadership

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Iraq** — First they were the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. They didn't fight. Then they were the Iraqi National Guard. They didn't fight.

U.S. officials are now hoping the third time is the charm, with the goal of Iraqis taking the lead on security — and American troops in the background — as the focus turns to standardizing training across the country.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, former 101st Airborne Division commander, is NATO Training Mission Iraq commander, in charge of standardizing training and establishing advanced training institutions, including an Iraqi War College.

Recent developments include:

■ On Jan. 6, the traditional Iraqi Army Day, U.S. officials stood up nine divisions across central and northern Iraq, from Tikrit to Kirkuk to Sulimaniyah. Under the Iraqi army structure, a full division is about 15,000 men, and a battalion is 896 soldiers, similar to the U.S. Army, said Maj. Steve Maranian, Iraqi Security Forces coordinator for the Würzburg, Germany-based 1st Infantry Division.

■ As of January, there were about 56,000 Iraqis in military



Finding dependable leadership is the most difficult part of building the new Iraqi army, says Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, right, Commander of the new 4th Iraqi Division Lt. Gen. Abdul Rahman Aziz al-Mufti, shaking hands with Batiste, is an example of the best of the emerging leadership, Batiste said. "He seems to be a hell of a guy," he added.

forces organized into 90 battalions across Iraq, according to Department of Defense documents.

■ In the 1st ID's area of responsibility, the number of battalions increased to 20 from eight or 10 when the division arrived a year ago, Maranian said.

■ At a facility near Tikrit, between 300 and 350 Iraqi soldiers

graduate every 28 days, or about three battalions in one year.

■ Smaller training centers in Iraq and Jordan graduate from 50 to 100 soldiers a month, U.S. officials say.

Materially, the situation has improved over the past few months. Iraqi soldiers are getting body armor, weapons, communications equipment and trucks, said Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, 1st ID commander. Iraqi soldiers say — and Batiste agreed — that communications equipment is essential for the new army.

"Do they need more? Absolutely," Batiste said in an interview Sunday, just before the 1st ID transferred its sector to the New York-based 42nd Infantry Division.

Army officials say the Iraqi army is improving steadily and some units, such as the 205th Battalion, fought well at Samarra last fall. The key to transforming the Iraqi force is improving leadership, Batiste and Maranian said.

American commanders have replaced unsatisfactory officers and some soldiers, but that's the exception, not the rule," Maranian said.

— Terry Boyd

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# IN THE STATES

## Appeal in tobacco case

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department said Wednesday it will appeal a court decision barring it from pursuing \$280 billion from tobacco companies in a civil racketeering lawsuit.

The government said it will ask the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to hear the case after a three-judge panel earlier this month said the government could not seek the money. The 2-1 decision from the appeals court dealt a major blow to the government's attempt to hold cigarette makers accountable for decades of alleged deceit about the dangers of smoking.

The panel decided that the 1970 civil racketeering statute under which the government filed its case required forced-feeding remedies, which did not include "disgorgement," or the pursuit of \$280 billion the government claims the industry earned through fraudulent activities.

The defendants in the lawsuit are Philip Morris USA and Altira, R.J. Reynolds, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co., British American Tobacco Ltd., Lorillard Tobacco Co., Liggett Group Inc., Council for Tobacco Research-USA and the Tobacco Institute.

## Social Security accounts

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan gave President Bush a green light Wednesday for using private accounts a modest endorsement Thursday.

"These accounts properly constructed and managed will create a sense of increased wealth" on the part of middle and lower income workers, Greenspan said in an appearance before the House Banking Committee.

Greenspan, however, expressed fresh concerns about the costs of a transition and the impact on financial markets.

His worry: whether increased government borrowing — needed to help bring the accounts about — would boost a variety of interest rates from mortgage rates for consumers to borrowing costs for every body.

## Circuit City plane crashes

PUEBLO, Colo. — Federal investigators said the pilots of a Circuit City corporate jet were battling poor weather just before the plane crashed a few miles from an airport, killing all eight on board.

Though the cause of the Wednesday morning crash was not known, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Mike Ferguson said the flight crew had been relying on the plane's instruments, which are used when weather doesn't permit visual landings.

Circuit City said four of the victims were employees of the nation's No. 2 consumer electronics chains. The company said it would not release the names of the victims but that none were executives.

The victims were the pilot, co-pilot and six passengers, Corsentino said. The flight originated in Richmond, Va., home of Circuit City Stores Inc.

## Philadelphia baby kidnapping

PHILADELPHIA — A woman pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges she kidnapped a baby during a 1997 house fire and raised the girl as her own for six years.

Prosecutors have said that 42-year-old Carolyn Correa, desperate for a baby of her own after suffering a miscarriage, conspired to set the blaze and steal the 10-day-old child from her crib.

Correa pleaded no contest to kidnapping, interfering with judicial custody and conspiracy and could get 25 to 50 years in prison.

No sentencing date was. Correa is undergoing psychiatric evaluation.

The girl, now 7, did not attend Wednesday's court session.

From The Associated Press

# Negroponte named U.S. intel director

By KATHERINE SHRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Thursday named John Negroponte, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and currently the administration's top representative in Iraq, to be America's first national intelligence director.

Announcing the move, Bush said that Negroponte understands global intelligence because he's had a long career in the foreign service. Bush also said that Negroponte will make decisions on the budgets for the various intelligence agencies.

"John will make sure that those whose duty it is to defend America have the information we need to make the right decisions," the president said.

Bush said Negroponte's office will be outside of the West Wing because it's important that he be apart from the White House.

"Nevertheless, he will have access on a daily basis in that he'll be my primary briefer," Bush said.

Negroponte said if confirmed he plans to "reform of the intelligence community in

ways designed to best meet the intelligence needs of the 21st century."

He called the new job "the most challenging assignment I have undertaken in more than 40 years of government service."

Bush named Lt. Gen. Mike Hayden, who has served as director of the National Security Agency since March 1999, as Negroponte's deputy. He is the longest serving director of the secretive codebreaking agency and has pushed for changes, such as asking longtime agency veterans to retire and increasing reliance on technology contractors.

"If we're going to stop the terrorists before they strike," Bush said, "we must ensure that our intelligence agencies work as a single, unified enterprise."

Discussing the authority that Negroponte will have, Bush said that "people who have access to the president generally have a lot of influence. And that's why John Negroponte is going to have a lot of influence. He will set the budgets."

Negroponte, 65, was at the United Nations when he was tapped to take on the delicate job of transforming the U.S. presence in Iraq from that of an occupier to that of

*"He will have access [to me] on a daily basis in that he'll be my primary briefer."*

**President Bush**  
on the role of national intelligence director

## Defrocked priest guilty in abuse case

By FOSTER KLUG

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A defrocked priest was found guilty Thursday of molesting a former altar boy who shot and wounded him on a city street a decade later.

Jurors found that Maurice Blackwell, 58, who did not testify, molested Dontee Stokes, 29, when Blackwell was pastor of St. Edward, a Roman Catholic church in West Baltimore.

The jury convicted Blackwell of three of four counts, finding he abused Stokes in 1990, 1991 and 1992 but acquitting him of a charge relating to an alleged incident in 1989 when Stokes was 15.

Sentencing was scheduled for April 15. He could face up to 45 years in prison.

After the verdict, Stokes said he felt vindicated.

"Mr. Blackwell was at no point on trial. It was all about me," he said. "The world can see that I'm not a perfect person, but I stand here right and he stands wrong."

Blackwell had served house detention on a gun charge related to the shooting.

Blackwell declined to comment. Defense attorney Kenneth Ravenell said he felt jurors reached their decision on evidence they should not have heard, referring to the judge's references to "other victims," which the judge ordered stricken from the record.

"It's impossible for people to wipe clear what they've already heard," Ravenell said. He said he planned to seek a retrial and if that failed, to appeal that decision.

On Wednesday, the jurors deliberated five hours without reaching a verdict, sending a note to the judge saying they were unable to agree and asking how to proceed.

Judge Stuart Berger read them standardized instructions Thursday morning on the



**Defrocked priest Maurice Blackwell, left, is escorted from the Baltimore City Circuit Court Thursday by his attorney Kenneth Ravenell, right, in Baltimore.**

importance of a unanimous verdict. They then deliberated about a half-hour more before reaching their verdicts.

Stokes had made accusations against Blackwell in 1993, but Blackwell denied the allegations and no other alleged victims came forward at the time. Blackwell received psychological treatment and returned to his parish, although he was barred from working with children and young adults.

In May 2002, in the midst of the national scandal involving Catholic priests, Stokes shot Blackwell three times. In the aftermath, Baltimore prosecutors reviewed Stokes' old allegations and charged Blackwell with abuse.

Stokes, who testified he had an "out-of-body experience" at the time of the shooting, was acquitted of attempted murder in December 2002 but was convicted on gun charges. He served 18 months on home detention.



**John Negroponte, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, was named as President Bush named him as the first national intelligence director Thursday.**

an adviser. Bush chose him for the job last April and he went to Baghdad hours after the handover of sovereignty to Iraq's interim government. Negroponte has also been ambassador to the Philippines, Mexico and Honduras.

The director of national intelligence will hold a pre-eminent role in U.S. national security affairs and coordinate the work of all 15 U.S. intelligence agencies.

## Bush's Europe trip has promise

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The fence-mending trips, makeup meetings and friendly photo ops spread over the past two years have failed to repair problems between President Bush and European leaders.

But the president's visit to Europe next week holds the promise of better relations for the simple pragmatic reason that disgruntled allies know they have to work with him for four more years.

Bush is unpopular in Europe for ordering the invasion of Iraq and pursuing what is widely seen as a foreign policy that ignores the views of other countries. Many leaders did not hide their hope that Democratic Sen. John Kerry would win the presidency in November.

Bush extended an olive branch at a news conference Thursday. He said he would reassure Europeans that "as we move beyond the differences of the past, that we can work a lot together to achieve big objectives."

European countries are not expecting any major changes in U.S. policy as a result of Bush's visit, said John Bruton, the European Union's ambassador to the United States.

"What they are hoping for is an increase in the level of trust," Bruton said.

Bush will fly to Brussels, Belgium, on Sunday for a three-night stay. He will hold a dinner with French President Jacques Chirac, the most vocal critic of U.S. policy in Iraq. Bush also will meet with NATO leaders and visit the headquarters of the European Union. The visit to the EU headquarters is seen as an important step that he takes the European Union seriously. Bush also will stop in Germany for talks with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, and will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Slovakia.



# Charges dropped against airline pilot

The Associated Press

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — A United Airlines pilot who also flew for the National Guard has been cleared of charges that he lied on an application for a security clearance in a case that began when an acquaintance reported that he'd talked about crashing a plane into Wall Street.

Maj. Robert Feneziani, 44, of San Diego, was arrested last

week by FBI agents with the Joint Terrorism Task Force of Western New York and pleaded not guilty to the charge of making false statements on a Defense Department form.

Feneziani's attorney said the government agreed to drop the charge Wednesday after determining Feneziani's application had been accurate.

"What we wish is that they would have investigated before

they arrested him," attorney Mark Mahoney said.

Feneziani was not charged in connection with the alleged threat to Wall Street.

Mahoney said the pilot denied ever making such a statement.

"We cannot fathom the reason or motivation for including this career-stopping allegation in the [lying] charges to begin with, knowing that such a claim would catapult this case, and Maj. Fene-

ziani, into the national spotlight," Mahoney said.

"They never talked to me about anything," Feneziani said.

U.S. Attorney Michael Battle told The Buffalo News the investigation was continuing and the case could be sent to a grand jury. He declined to elaborate.

Feneziani is assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 107th Air Refueling Wing in Niagara Falls.

## 'Big Apple' no more

**NEW YORK** — Forget "The Big Apple." New York now wants to be known as "The World's Second Home."

The city has filed an application to trademark the slogan "The World's Second Home," giving the city exclusive rights to use it to promote business and tourism.

The phrase is likely to come up often as New York makes its push to host the 2012 Olympics.

If the application is accepted, the city would have exclusive rights to attach the phrase to a list of more than 200 products and services, according to Thursday's editions of the New York Times.

## No pranks allowed

**McCOOK, Neb.** — Two high schools turned down offers from MTV to film a re-creation of a class prank in which a group of students parked a car outside the door to the principal's office.

"It's not part of school life that we need to promote," McCook Public High School Principal Jerry Smith said.

Smith told the cable television station the school would not participate in "High School Stories" because the 2003 prank was not part of the district's curriculum or goals for students' education.

After the rejection, Tyler Bieck, whose car was used in the prank, wrote the school board urging it approve the filming, saying the MTV visit would be "a great opportunity for exposure for the community of McCook and the McCook Public School System." The board declined.

From The Associated Press

# Boxer on TV's 'The Contender' commits suicide

BY DAVID B. CARUSO

The Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA** — A promising young boxer who got the break of a lifetime when he was selected by NBC's upcoming reality TV program, "The Contender," committed suicide.

Police said 23-year-old Najai Turpin shot himself in the head at 4 a.m. Monday while sitting with his girlfriend in a parked car outside the West Philadelphia gym where he trained. Investigators were unsure why he took his life.

An NBC spokeswoman said the producers, cast and crew of "The Contender" were shocked and saddened by Turpin's death. The program, scheduled to debut March 7, will go on as planned.

Produced by reality TV mogul Mark Burnett, "The Contender" will follow the lives of 16 boxers competing for a chance at a million-dollar purse.

The episodes involving Turpin had already been taped.

Percy "Buster" Custus, a trainer who had worked with him since Turpin was 12, said the boxer had enjoyed his experiences with the show but seemed troubled in recent weeks. He said Turpin abruptly left a training camp in the Poconos and returned home to Philadelphia, saying he missed his family.

"None of us really know what brought this about," Custus said Tuesday. "You just want to see

the boys come out of the neighborhood. From the time they're young kids, you really want to see them make it. And he was right there."

Turpin had a 13-1 record and had won a city Recreation Department title before he was picked for "The Contender."

"The episode in which he was most depicted will stand as a wonderful testament to who he was. It will not be changed," Burnett wrote in a statement released by NBC.

A tribute to Turpin will be added to the show. Viewers will also be offered a chance to donate money to a trust fund set up to support Turpin's 2-year-old daughter.



Police say Najai Turpin, of NBC's "The Contender," shot and killed himself Monday outside a gym.

## WANT TO KEEP YOUR FACE FROM BREAKING OUT?

## BUCKLE YOUR SAFETY BELT.

## IN THE WORLD

## Iran calls for alliance against U.S., Israel

By NASSER KARIMI  
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran on Thursday urged regional countries to create a powerful alliance and remain vigilant in the face of "U.S. and Israeli plots," a call coming a day after Syria and Iran declared they would form a united front in the face of any threats.

The United States has recently escalated its criticism of both Syria and Iran, demanding that Syria withdraw its troops from Lebanon and accusing Tehran of running a covert nuclear weapons program.

The United States has also said both countries need to do more to prevent insurgents from traveling to Iraq from their territory.

On Thursday, President Bush said that Syria is "out of step" with other nations in the Middle East and said the United States will work with other countries to

## Myers: New conflict would strain military

Stars and Stripes

Stretched thin in Iraq, the U.S. military would have trouble responding as quickly and effectively as commanders would like if it had to go to war in Iran or North Korea, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told Congress on Wednesday, according to USA Today.

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said a sudden military crisis in one of those two nations — both of which are resisting U.S. demands that they give up nuclear programs — would likely force the Pentagon to remobilize Reserve and Guard components that have rotated home from Iraq to rest, USA Today reported in its Thursday editions.

In addition, because of the current strain on U.S. forces, it would take longer for U.S. troops to respond to a crisis in Iran, North Korea or some

other major conflict than U.S. battle plans call for, Myers told the House Armed Services Committee.

"The timeliness of our response might not be totally consistent with what the combat commander wants and so forth," the paper reported Myers as saying.

Myers and other senior military officials have acknowledged that U.S. forces are stretched by deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have never acknowledged in public, however, that they could result in having to compromise plans for another war.

Under Defense Department doctrine, the military must be able to simultaneously fight and swiftly defeat two enemies in two different parts of the world. One of those conflicts can be an enduring one, such as Iraq.

"We can still do that," Myers insisted.

pressure Damascus to remove its troops from Lebanon.

Iran's powerful former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, speak-

ing after meeting Syrian Prime Minister Mohammad Najji al-Otari, said strengthening relations between Iran, Syria, Iraq,

Lebanon and other Islamic states in the region was of great importance, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

He said it was in the interests of their people to create a powerful alliance through close cooperation.

Rafsanjani, who is widely expected to run in Iran's June presidential elections, said that the United States and Israel were trying to create divisions among the region's countries, which he said must "stay completely vigilant vis-a-vis the U.S. and Israeli plots in this regard."

Al-Otari was quoted by IRNA as saying that Israel was "the source of instability" in the Middle East and that Syria would continue supporting the Palestinians and Lebanese in their struggle.

On Wednesday, Syria and Iran, both facing pressure from the United States, said they will form a united front to confront possible threats. But later that day the Syrian ambassador to the United States said that "we don't need an alliance against the United States" in an interview.

## Satan in school: Class thwarts lure of devil

By ANGELA DOLAND  
The Associated Press

ROME — Worried about the lure of the devil, a Vatican-linked university on Thursday debuted its latest course offering: a class on Satanism, black magic and exorcism.

The class for clergy and seminarians at Rome's Pontifical Academy "Regina Apostolorum" arose from alarm about that some religious officials see as Satanic practices among young people, especially in Italy.

In one case in Italy in January, members of a heavy metal band called Besets of Satan were ordered to stand trial for their alleged role in three ritual killings. One of the victims was a 19-year-old stabbed to death in 1998. She may have been targeted because her killers believed she was a personification of the Virgin Mary, prosecutors contend.

A major theme of the first day's course was how to differentiate between a person who is possessed and someone who is simply suffering psychological problems.

Rome exorcist Francesco Bamonte described how he works with a team of priests and psychologists to make the distinction before deciding whether to go through with an exorcism.

"If not, I would be inundated with requests from people who don't need me," said Bamonte, who said he performs about 20 exorcisms a year.

The Vatican is also concerned about a growing number of young people who develop what instructors called personal forms of Satanism, outside the sects that are closely monitored by police.

They often learn about the devil through the Internet.

"It's a more spontaneous and hidden phenomenon, a problem of loneliness and isolation, a problem of emptiness, that is fulfilled by the values of Satanism," said one of the teachers, Carlo Cini.

In 1999, the Vatican issued its first new guidelines since 1614 for driving out devils, offering cautions to exorcists about taking psychiatric problems into account. The updated exorcism rite was



Italian exorcist father Gabriele Nanni holds his book, "The Finger of God and the Power of Satan, the Exorcism," after giving his lesson on Satanism for clergy at Rome's Regina Apostolorum Pontifical Academy on Thursday.

a reflection of Pope John Paul II's efforts to convince the skeptical that the devil is very much in the world.

Among the signs of possession by the devil, according to church teaching, are speaking in unknown tongues and demonstrating physical force beyond one's natural capacity.

## Israel to end house-razing payback

JERUSALEM — Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz ordered an end Thursday to the policy of demolishing the houses of Palestinians involved in attacks against Israelis, the military said.

An internal army review of the policy called it ineffective, concluding that it inflamed anger and failed to deter attacks. The practice has been condemned by human rights groups.

During the past four years of violence, Israeli soldiers using bulldozers and explosives have flattened 666 homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Plutonium discrepancy shrugged off

LONDON — A British nuclear reprocessing plant could account for nearly 66 pounds of plutonium, but authorities believe it's an accounting issue rather than a loss of potential bomb-making material, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority said Thursday.

The amount of material listed as missing at the Sellafield plant in northwestern England was "within international standards of expected measurement accuracies for closing a nuclear material balance at the type of facility concerned," the authority said.

"There is no evidence to suggest that any of the apparent losses reported were real losses of nuclear material," the authority added.

## Italy nabs suspected mob boss

ROME — Italian police said Wednesday they have arrested a mob boss who had been on the run for about a decade and was on the country's list of 30 most wanted fugitives.

Gregorio Bellocchio was found hiding in a bunker in a pre-dawn raid Wednesday in Reggio Calabria, home to the 'Ndrangheta crime syndicate.

Investigators believe Bellocchio is a top member of the 'Ndrangheta, and he has to serve time on several convictions, including a life sentence for murder, said the ANSA news agency.

The 'Ndrangheta crime syndicate is eclipsing the Sicilian Mafia, Italian officials say, and has acquired a dominant position in drug trafficking.

## Officials: Plan targeted Eiffel Tower

PARIS — Islamic militants under investigation for allegedly planning an attack on the Russian Embassy in Paris had been plotting their attack on the Eiffel Tower, police and judicial officials said Wednesday.

Three men, all Algerians, were detained Jan. 11 in connection with an investigation into a network of Islamic radicals supporting Chechen rebels, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

According to judicial officials, targets included the Eiffel Tower, a clock tower and a shopping center in Paris district of Les Halles, Israeli interests and police stations.

From The Associated Press

## Plan will integrate global observation systems

By JOSH BROWN  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union's head office on Thursday called for more international cooperation in space as plans move ahead for a combined global observation system to predict natural disasters like tsunamis and drastic weather changes.

European Enterprise Commissioner Günter Erbeurgen said the European Space Agency and all EU nations should "step up cooperation" in space, echoing comments earlier this week by nations speaking at the third-annual Earth Observation Summit.

Nearly 60 countries, 30 international organizations and the EU launched a 10-year plan to integrate many satellite observing systems currently operating independently to allow for more collaboration internationally. The new project is called the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, or GEOSS.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said at the meeting that integrating the international observing systems will bring fundamental change, especially when it comes to predicting disasters like the tsunami in Asia Dec. 26.

"While we may not be able to control when nature decides to flex its incredible power, we can control our ability to

warn citizens and keep them out of harm's way," Gutierrez said.

Predicting temperatures only one degree more accurately would save in the United States alone \$1 billion in electricity, he said.

And predicting drought could save farmers millions of dollars, preventing them from wasting money planting crops in years where there would be little rain.

Lautenbacher said satellite technology will be available in the next three to four years that will allow scientists to determine the chemical composition of the atmosphere and track how greenhouse gases travel from country to country.

## YOUR MONEY

## Fix is in: Home improvements help

Key is to view remodeling as reinvestment

BY JAY MACDONALD  
Bankrate.com

If your remote control is stuck on Home & Garden Television, if you recognize Bob Vila's voice sight unseen, and you're on a first-name basis with the clerks at Home Depot, chances are you've caught the home-improvement bug.

You're not alone. Today, Americans are sprucing up everything from Arizona tract homes and New England saltboxes to Florida condos. But when it comes time to sell, will you recoup the cost of that new master suite, state-of-the-art kitchen or demerced attic loft? The time to find out is before you pull the power saw or contract for a home makeover.

Money spent on remodeling is reinvested in your house, and if you finance correctly, the interest on payments can be tax-deductible. Fortunately, several financing options for home renovations are readily available today.

If you have the equity to match your total project cost, a traditional home-equity loan might be your best bet. If your improvements include energy-efficient upgrades, you might also qualify for energy-saving loans through local utilities or related businesses.



This week, neighbors of writer Ernest Hemingway's former home, Hemingway House, in Ketchum, Idaho, announced that they want to buy the property, have it moved, then donate the structure back to the original owners, The Nature Conservancy, to settle a dispute regarding public access to the home. Were this house on the market, however, the back deck likely would help it attract potential buyers. According to the 2004 survey by Remodeling magazine that compares the cost of construction to likely return on investment at resale, a \$7,000 deck addition will on average return 86.7 percent of your investment.

What can you expect to recoup for renovations to this old house? According to the 2004 survey by Remodeling magazine that compares the cost of construction to likely return on investment (ROI) at resale, minor kitchen remodels yielded 92.9 percent of your investment, followed closely by new siding at 92.8 percent.

Here's what's hot in remodels, room by room:

■ Kitchens typically suffer the most wear and tear. And because kitchens tend to follow style and color trends, they often seem dated

sooner than other rooms in the home. The most popular minor improvements include adding functionality with dual sinks and cooking stations, and cosmetic improvements such as under-cabinet lighting, marble or granite countertops and ceramic tile backslashes. To add space, consider a walk-in pantry or breakfast alcove.

■ Bathrooms have changed the most during the past century. Today, homes that have more than one self faster and fetch a higher price. A mid-range bath remodel (less than \$10,000) placed third in the 2004 survey with a ROI of 90.1

percent. Popular renovations include skylights, couples' walk-in showers, glass block windows and vaulted ceilings.

■ Bedrooms are always listed first in real estate descriptions for good reason: We spend nearly half our lives there. If you can put one in your attic, you're likely to recoup 82.7 percent of the estimated \$35,000 cost of installation.

■ Decks expand your living space, and you rarely live your life using your home larger, be it exterior or interior renovations. A \$7,000 deck addition placed fourth in ROI at 86.7 percent.

■ Windows quickly and inexpensively add to a home's volume, and volume is the buzzword in real estate these days. So it's no surprise that your return on new glass is excellent, whether you're contemplating a mid-range window replacement (less than \$10,000) at 84.5 percent or an upscale replacement (\$15,000-plus) at 83.7 percent.

Your return on your remodel likely will depend as much on how well it fits the period and scale of your house as how much it adds to its functionality.

## Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

## This Sable can't warm up owner

Dear Tom and Ray:

I've got a peculiar problem. My 1999 Mercury Sable's heater has been putting out less and less hot air for the past few years. This year, there was no heat. I flushed the cooling system; still nothing. Then I flushed the heater core, and now I have heat, but only at highway speeds. At idle, you can feel it cool right back down to nothing. Any thoughts? I'm thinking it's the water pump. Can you help out? My wife and kids refuse to ride with me anymore ... on second thought, maybe that's OK! — Mike

RAY: My brother got his wife and kids to stop riding with him, too. But he didn't have to give up his heat to do it. Giving up his reflexes and judgment seemed to do the trick.

TOM: I think it's your heater core, Mike. Flushing won't help once it's really plugged up. I'm going to guess that the water pump is OK. It's turned by the car that runs off the engine so, at idle speed, it's supposed to pump more slowly than at highway speed. At normal idle speed, it just can't overcome the gunk that's clogging up your heater core.

RAY: The good news is that the heater core is easy to get to on this car. The bad news is that it's only easy to get to once you remove the entire dashboard.

TOM: So, you're looking at \$600. Mike. A big chunk of that is labor. You have to make a decision here: Do you want to be frozen out by your car or frozen out by your family? Good luck deciding, brother.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail us by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

## WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	52-week Low
10,858.8	5,796.48	10,858.88	+2.41	+1.33
3,823.58	2,423.46	3,823.68	+7.28	+4.1
356.11	259.08	356.09	+2.81	+0.87
6,211.33	3,753.46	6,211.33	+0.94	+0.75
1,526.26	1,158.74	1,526.26	+2.62	+2.4
2,120.78	1,552.82	2,120.78	+1.78	+0.91
1,217.10	1,066.72	1,217.10	+2.22	+0.81
548.29	397.59	548.29	+4.28	+1.62
666.11	519.55	666.11	+2.82	+1.95
12,093.46	10,268.52	12,093.46	+12.59	+1.31

NYSE					AMEX					NASDAQ				
Most Active (\$1 or more)			Net Chg	% Chg	Most Active (\$1 or more)			Net Chg	% Chg	Most Active (\$1 or more)			Net Chg	% Chg
Exxon	362,556	24.35	+7		SPDR	882,839	121.19	+6		NAS100trf	76,681	5.78	-14	
Pfizer	236,320	3.14	+9		Smith Barney	77,884	33.76	+16		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	
Glaxo	180,887	98.48	+14		SPDR	882,839	22.16	+6		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	
Johnson & Johnson	13,881	1.27	+37		SPDR	882,839	22.16	+6		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	
Glaxo	180,887	98.48	+14		SPDR	882,839	22.16	+6		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	
Merck	14,654	12.18	+8		SPDR	882,839	22.16	+6		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	
McDermott	102,795	15.73	+27		SPDR	882,839	22.16	+6		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	
Novartis	1,037,919	71.86	+3		SPDR	882,839	22.16	+6		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	
Tecumseh	15,841	26.89	+8		SPDR	882,839	22.16	+6		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	
United Therapeutics	14,614	31.71	+8		SPDR	882,839	22.16	+6		205 index	10,000	1.00	+1	

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	Div	PE	Low	High
Alliant Techsystems	1.07	10.05	33.0	38.8
Airbus	1.00	10.05	33.0	38.8
Boeing	1.00	10.05	33.0	38.8
General Dynamics	1.00	10.05	33.0	38.8
Hawthorn	1.00	10.05	33.0	38.8
Lockheed Martin	1.00	10.05	33.0	38.8
Northrop Grumman	1.00	10.05	33.0	38.8
Raytheon	1.00	10.05	33.0	38.8
United Technologies	1.00	10.05	33.0	38.8

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs	\$1.3408
Dollar buys	£0.7458
British pound	\$1.94
Japanese yen (Feb. 18)	102.00
South Korean won (Feb. 17)	1,000.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698
British pound	\$1.886
Canada (Dollar)	1.2364
Denmark (Krone)	5.38
Egypt (Pound)	5.8116
Euro	\$1.3034/0.7672
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7994
Hungary (Forint)	186.30
Iceland (Krona)	62.145

Israel (Shekel) .....	4.3668
Japan (Yen) .....	105.36
Kuwait (Dinar) .....	0.29199
Norway (Krone) .....	6.05
Philippines (Peso) .....	55.03
Saudi Arabia (Riyal) .....	3.58
Singapore (Dollar) .....	1.6403
South Korea (Won) .....	1,026.10
Switzerland (Franc) .....	1.12
Thailand (Baht) .....	38.37
Turkey (New Lira) .....	1.3110

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	NAV	NAV	NAV	NAV
Fidelity Investor: Global	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Divd Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Divd Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Divd Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Divd Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Divd Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Divd Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Divd Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21
Fidelity Investor: Divd Growth	24.01	-0.05	-0.21	-0.21

## PRECIOUS METALS

London close		\$427.10
Gold	1,340.00	
Silver	37.10	

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate .....	5.50
Discount rate .....	3.50
Federal funds market rate .....	2.50
3-month bill .....	2.58
30-year bond .....	4.52

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

## cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

## Resources on tax terms

BY KNUIGHT MYERS

Knight Ridder/Tribune

When dealing with your income tax return, understanding the lexicon is often half the battle.

To help remove the confusion from tax terminology, several Web sites provide tax glossaries that break down the jargon:

■ Bankrate.com ([www.bankrate.com/bnm/tax/edit/definitions/definitions-taxestax1.asp](http://www.bankrate.com/bnm/tax/edit/definitions/definitions-taxestax1.asp)) provides tax definitions designed to help filers become more fluent with tax terms.

■ H&R Block ([www.taxcut.com/taxtips/tax-terms/glossic.htm](http://www.taxcut.com/taxtips/tax-terms/glossic.htm)) features good list of commonly used tax words and phrases.

■ Internal Revenue Service ([www.irs.gov/taxtips/tax-terms/glossic.htm](http://www.irs.gov/taxtips/tax-terms/glossic.htm)) has A-to-Z glossary of tax terms.

■ Investor Words ([www.investorwords.com/tax.htm](http://www.investorwords.com/tax.htm)) has an extensive glossary list of tax terms.

■ TaxGaga.com ([www.taxgaga.com/pages/c-tax-definitions-dictionary.html](http://www.taxgaga.com/pages/c-tax-definitions-dictionary.html)) offers straightforward tax definitions, sometimes in a conversational manner.





## OPINION

# Be a trooper for your spouse when reunited

BY ALLIE OCHS

**L**aura anxiously anticipates the return of her husband, Dan. What will it be like and what should she do? After all, he is not returning from a successful business trip or golf weekend. He is coming back from war.

Should she arrange a romantic just-for-the-two-of-us event or a family reunion? This is the first homecoming experience in their young marriage. It has been more than a year since Dan left. Little

Maja was born three months ago and Dan has yet to meet his new baby girl.

Laura — once shy, dependent and overweight — turned into a self-reliant and confident woman. She joined the gym, lost weight and signed up for computer classes. Even though Laura had missed Dan terribly, she adapted to being a military wife. They had kept each other up to date through e-mail and phone calls. Dan will be surprised to find how much has changed since he left.

How do you deal with the challenges of homecoming? Relax and accept that homecoming can be difficult. In getting ready for the big day, put your own needs aside and help your spouse reconnect with the life he or she left behind.

The real challenge is life after deployment. Historically, those fighting in combat have a much greater likelihood of relationship breakups than their civilian counterparts. Depending on how devastating the war experience has been, your soldier may not be the same person that you saw

off. Your spouse could have witnessed others — including children or comrades — die. He or she may have been forced to kill in the line of duty.

While your soldier may not share all of these experiences with you, listen with empathy if he or she does. Even though your life was clouded with fear during deployment, don't compete for the "most wounded" heart.

After the big homecoming, you might be anxious to get on with life as a couple, yet find each other at different junctures. Returning from a country at war, everyday life may now seem trivial to your spouse. He or she may suffer from post-war trauma or guilt.

Here are the two of you trying to pick up where you left off. This is the critical point where military couples set the stage for either a spiral breakdown or deeper love. How do you prevent your relationship from becoming a divorce statistic? Simply be what people in exceptional relationships are: fit to love. Do what people in exceptional relationships do: become better for each other every day. By following the three principles of being fit to love — mutual respect, moral responsibility and authenticity — you can turn your relationship into a solid anchor. Here is what these principles mean:

■ **Mutual respect:** Exercise true mutual respect instead of self-serving respect. In real terms, this means your partner is just as important to you as you are. Respect her homecoming soldier feels. He or she has gone through a life-changing phase while serving, an experience the two of you did not share. Cherish the new person that has emerged. Accept his or her altered perspective on life and be open to learn from it.

■ **Moral responsibility:** You are always



PORTSMOUTH (OHIO) DAILY TIMES/AP

**Spec. David Bradford is greeted by his wife, Alisha, at a welcome-home ceremony for the Ohio National Guard's Company B, 216th Engineer Battalion in Portsmouth, Ohio, last Friday. The unit had been deployed for more than a year in support of the Iraqi war.**

morally responsible to your partner. Everything you think, say or do affects your partner. Sometimes you even have to think of your partner first. Yes, you are responsible for each other's well-being. Be kind, loving and understanding. Allow for time to heal the wounds. Be sensitive and encouraging when you help your partner get on with life. It is your job to be an anchor.

■ **Authenticity:** Be you! Create and be the best of you. Be better for each other. Be honest about your own feelings, but don't blame each other if your relationship is going through change. It could also

be a change for the better. Depending on how you react, crises such as these are often the kick-start for more authentic and more solid relationships. Take your cues from your heart, for it will never betray you.

Think back to when you wholeheartedly committed to your partner. Did you commit to respect and be morally responsible to each other? Did you commit to be the best you could be for each other? Sure you did, and now you have a chance to do all that and do it better.

Allie Ochs is a relationship expert, coach, speaker and author of "Are You Fit To Love?" She lives in St. Catharines, Ontario.

# Old GIs will serve in Iraq, but wars aren't uniform

BY JOE VOLZ

**T**he late Gen. Douglas MacArthur, supreme U.S. commander in the Pacific in World War II, told Congress in his farewell address, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

(Mac said farewell a few years after World War II while leading U.N. troops to a stalemate with the communists during the Korean War. He refused to take the war to China and was fired by President Truman, who didn't.)

Well, these days that quote, which MacArthur attributed to an old ballad, may need some revision. The Army is now looking for a few good old soldiers, from the ages of 40 to the late 60s, for duty either in the United States or Iraq. It's called a "prudent" measure to beef up overworked forces strained to capacity because of efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I'm an old soldier. I was in Germany in the 1950s. Maybe I could get assigned to the Maryland city of Frederick's largest employer, Fort Detrick, or at a recruiting station. So far, the Army has signed up 300 retirees — both grunts like me and officers. The Marines have recruited 60 old troopers.

The retirees would have to serve a year. They would not be the front-line combat soldiers but would help build schools and roads and be civil affairs officers. Sort of a military version of the Peace Corps.

The fine print is going to eliminate me, however, and millions of others. I was a draftsman and served only two years. The Army wants professionals who were in for 20.

But, nevertheless, I thought about it for a

few minutes. What would it be like for this old G.I. Joe to report for duty once again?

It's an entirely different Army now, not just because it is the best trained and best equipped fighting force we have ever had, but the symbols have changed, too. I was in the olive-drab, brown-belt Army. Now, it is black boots and Army green. And there are women in some combat roles this time around.

Most of the places where I was stationed have since closed, such as Fort Holabird in Baltimore, where I went to Army Intelligence School. The key course I took as an intelligence analyst was typing. I told my teacher then I had been typing for years, so I got some "on-the-job" training helping the secretaries do their work.

Today's all-volunteer Army — and President Bush says it will stay that way — is much more motivated than we were. Many of today's regular Army troops believe that they are performing an important mission. That, as Woodrow Wilson put it, they are making the world safe for democracy.

Some of us old soldiers might take a different position. I certainly would not be enthusiastic about being shipped to Iraq. We shouldn't be there at this point. I wouldn't "get with the program," so I might be more of a liability than an asset to the military.

But, however, it might be good to get some calmer heads into the mix — men whose testosterone level has dropped enough so that we don't feel we have to

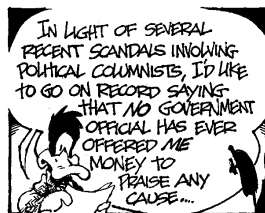
fight all comers. We wouldn't fight for pride. Maybe we would even be role models.

If there is a way to find a path out of the bloodshed, old soldiers — men who have served our nation at places such as Pork Chop Hill or Da Nang — may have some answers. Old soldiers have seen wars. I was fortunate to have been too young for Korea and too old for Vietnam, but I saw the rubble of war spread across the face of Europe.)

It is often said that old men send young men off to die. This time, some old soldiers may find a way to help stop the dying. That would be the ultimate act of patriotism.

Joe Volz's columns, including this one, appear in The Frederick (MD) News-Post.

## Mallard Fillmore



...AND THAT, AS A MATTER OF JOURNALISTIC ETHICS, I THINK IT'S WRONG AND WOULDN'T TAKE IT!



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BY BRUCE TINSLEY

## Woman hits police

**IN** SOUTH BEND — A 79-year-old woman has been charged with using her wooden cane to strike police officers who arrived at her home to check on her welfare.

St. Joseph County prosecutors said the officers came to investigate a possible domestic abuse charge against Betty Chambers' live-in caretaker, Thomas Holleman, 57.

As the officers tried to handcuff Holleman, Chambers allegedly struck Officer Louie Foresman over the head with her cane, prosecutors said.

Foresman suffered a mild concussion while Sgt. John Pavlekovich suffered a separated shoulder and hand injury, said Jaimee Thirion, a spokeswoman for St. Joseph County police.

Prosecutors charged Chambers and Holleman with resisting law enforcement and battery.

## State whiskey banned

**AL** MONTGOMERY — Alabama's official state whiskey has been banned from sale in the state.

The Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board notified Concecuh Ridge Distillery that its state license had been revoked because of liquor law violations by its owners. The Legislature is in the process of repealing Concecuh Ridge's designation as the official state whiskey.

The Troy-based company has been in turmoil since founder Kenny May pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges involving illegal sales, including selling a case of whiskey to an 18-year-old girl. Alabama's legal drinking age is 21.

The Alabama Legislature voted last year, over Gov. Bob Riley's veto, to make Concecuh Ridge Alabama's "official state spirit."

The product is made in Kentucky, but May asserted that it was based on a recipe created by his father, Clyde May, a famous Alabama bootlegger.

## Poor may lose housing

**MA** BOSTON — About 4,700 of the state's poorest citizens would be at risk of losing their state-subsidized housing after three years, and many would be required to work while receiving housing benefits, under a proposal in Gov. Mitt Romney's budget plan.

The administration said the three-year limit on people who participate in the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program is consistent with Romney's emphasis on helping the poor become self-sufficient, but critics say the plan does not take into account the state's expensive housing market.

The voucher program is an alternative to public housing in that it allows recipients to pay for housing on the private market, where rents average \$1,300 for a two-bedroom apartment in Boston.

## Man/Boy Love raid

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Seven members of the North American Man/Boy Love Association, including two teachers, were arrested in Southern California and charged with allegedly planning to travel to Mexico to have



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

sex with boys, authorities said. An eighth man was charged with distributing child pornography, said FBI spokeswoman Laura Emililer.

They were charged Monday, following a sting operation in which each man allegedly paid hundreds of dollars to an undercover agent to arrange the sex, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said during a news conference Monday.

The men had allegedly traveled from their home to Southern California with the expectation of boarding a boat to Ensenada, where they were told sex with the boys was awaiting them at a bed-and-breakfast, Emililer said. Through the undercover agent, she said, they requested that the boys be as young as 8 years old.

NAMBLA, which was formed in 1978 and advocates relationships with men and boys, was not charged in the case.

## Dem. staffers charged

**WI** MILWAUKEE — Five Democratic campaign staffers — including the sons of a congresswoman and a former city official — were ordered Tuesday to stand trial for allegedly vandalizing Republican get-out-the-vote vans on Election Day.

The five are accused of slashing the tires of 25 vans rented by the state GOP to drive voters and monitors to the polls. The felony charge carries a maximum punishment of 3½ years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Arraignment was set for March 4.

The defendants include the sons of



## That's gotta' hurt!

Nathan Graves comes off his horse Tuesday night in San Antonio as he competes in the 14th performance of the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo at the SBC Center. Graves received no score for the ride.

of Wisconsin Rep. Gwen Moore and former acting Mayor Marvin Pratt.

At a preliminary hearing, Levor Stoney and Opel Simmons, two Democratic presidential campaign workers sent to Wisconsin in the final weeks of the campaign, testified they were in the Milwaukee headquarters when the five left just after 3 a.m. Election Day and returned shortly after.

"They seemed to be excited, excited, kind of gleeful, laughing and kind of joking," Simmons said. Stoney said Michael Pratt, the former acting mayor's son, talked about slashing a couple of tires, and Moore's son, Sowande Omokunde, also talked about the vandalism. He said at least one had a knife; he could not recall which one.

Defense attorneys suggested Stoney and Simmons were also part of an alleged plan to plaster the GOP office and property with Kerry-Edwards signs and bumper stickers before polls opened.

Prosecutors contend the five defendants came up with the tire-slashing plan after a security guard was posted at the GOP office.

## He tried, but no dough!

**CA** RICHMOND — A would-be robber in a backhoe tried to rip an automatic teller machine from the wall of a bank early Monday, but did little more than make a big mess before fleeing empty-handed, police said.

"The guy stole the backhoe from around the corner at a construction site and used the front scoop to try to take out the ATM," said police spokesman Sgt. Enos Johnson.

The robber heavily damaged the bank's exterior wall and destroyed the ATM, but "the safe appeared to be intact," Johnson said.

## Homicide rate up

**MD** UPPER MARLBORO — Prince George's County law enforcement officials are concerned about a high number of homicides this year, a spokeswoman for police Chief Melvin C. High said. Slayings in the county are up to 20 this year, including two people killed over the weekend. Last year, the county registered 148 homicides.

## Sen. backs expansion

**ID** BOISE — Sen. Joe Stegner is pushing an expansion proposal for the Capitol that would add wings to each end of the century-old building. Another proposal to remodel the vacant county courthouse across the street and use it as an annex is also being considered.

## Fire destroys bar

**AL** DAPHNE — A fire destroyed Judge Roy Bean's, a popular bar and concert venue that had operated since 1946. Singers Jimmy Buffett, Emmy Lou Harris and Jerry Jeff Walker were among those who performed at the old wooden building with a big fenced-in yard, where customers were greeted by a maitre d' and goat. Both animals survived the fire. The cause of the blaze wasn't immediately clear.



## Wedding by the letters

Dressed as the letter Q, kindergarten Seth Reid, leads the letter U, otherwise known as Danni Baham, down an aisle lined with their classmates during a wedding ceremony for the two letters Friday at Independence Elementary School in Independence, La. The kindergarten wedding was complete with a choir, cake and flowers.



## Limber lady

Kong Chummei performs in front of Hart Elementary school students Tuesday in Bakersfield, Calif. Chummei is a part of the traveling China Star Acrobats Company from Mainland China and puts on shows all over the United States each year.



**Artist's work brings in big bucks** In this photo released by Doyle New York, a photograph of the painting "A Bold Bluff," by artist Casius Marcellus Coolidge, is shown Tuesday in New York. A pair of paintings from the famed series depicting dogs playing poker sold for \$590,400 at auction on Tuesday. The winning bid set a new auction record for Coolidge, whose previous top sale was \$74,000 for a painting at a Sotheby's auction in 1999, said Alan Fause, director of paintings at Doyle New York, which handled the Tuesday sale. The winning bidder was a private collector from New York.



**Shining their machines** Patrons at a coin-operated car wash in Killeen, Texas, put the finishing touches on their cars as the sun blankets the area with midday light Tuesday.



**Facing the wall** Excelsior Education Center student Cesar Lopez III, whose sister and brother are serving in the armed forces, rapels after the 24-foot rock-climbing wall during the Army of One Interactive Tour on Tuesday in Victorville, Calif. The tour visited the Victor Valley Community College campus for two days and featured interactive video games; a 3-D and audio interactive exhibit; and the rock-climbing wall.

## Children recovering

**FL** INVERNESS — Seven children removed from a home amid allegations of torture are enrolled in public schools and adjusting to foster care, officials say.

They even have grown a little and gained a substantial amount of weight, Citrus County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Gail Tierney said.

The children's health has rebounded since Jan. 27, when they were placed in foster homes in groups of two or three, Tierney said.

They have received medical checkups and detectives check daily on their welfare. The children began attending area schools last week.

Their schoolmates are aware of the circumstances and have been protective of them, Tierney said.

The children, ages 12 to 17, have been in state custody since late last month. Authorities say their parents, John and Linda Dollar, were arrested last five months ago, shocking them, yanking their nails out, confining them and leaving them malnourished.

The couple each face charges of aggravated child abuse and more charges are pending, officials said. They are being extradited from Utah, where authorities said they fled fearing arrest.

## Just a little 'blinky'

**RI** PROVIDENCE — A little magnetic "blinky," favored by teens and clubbers, stirred up an intense, multiagency investigation because some Providence officers believed it was a sophisticated eavesdropping device planted inside the police station.

Three ranking officers took it to a businessman who deals in surveillance devices. When told it was a high-tech listening tool, the officers waited several days before turning it over to their union and the police administration. Police Chief Dean M. Esserman was handed an envelope containing the device — now in pieces — and he immediately called the state police to investigate.

Over the weekend, the device went through state police laboratories in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut, plus the Boston bureau of the FBI. They all came up with the same conclusion: It's just a little blinky.

## Guess what, you're dead

**CA** PLEASANTON — When word spread that Mary Lawson had passed away at age 84, no one was more upset than Lawson herself, who was very much alive and enjoying a historical novel on CD.

An employee at Lawson's doctor's office called to inform her that, according to the Social Security Administration, she had died Jan. 11.

So how had she managed to keep her subsequent appointments? The employee laughed, and so did Lawson — until she realized the pitfalls associated with no longer being alive. She found her bank account frozen and her monthly \$832 So-

cial Security check missing. Her doctors were told they couldn't claim Medicare for a corpse.

After a few stressful days, Lawson was relieved to learn that she was officially alive. The government acknowledged the mistake, resurrected her and promised to fix any problems that had cropped up while Lawson wasn't really dead.

"I'm the healthiest ghost you've ever seen," Lawson declared.

Lowell Kepke, a Social Security spokesman, confirmed that Lawson had been reported dead but said it wasn't clear why.

## New recycling campaign

**RI** PROVIDENCE — A new ad campaign will ask Rhode Islanders to reuse or recycle plastic grocery bags from retail stores. The Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp. says it spends nearly \$1 million a year picking up bags that blow off of trucks delivered to a landfill in Johnston. The \$250,000 television and newspaper ad campaign is aimed at persuading residents to help combat the problem.

## Center seeks nurses

**NC** FAYETTEVILLE — Cape Fear Valley Medical Center is sending recruiters to Canada to help reduce its nursing shortage.

Five nurses from Canada have been hired and several more are interested, the hospital says. The effort has helped reduce 141 full-time openings as of last May to just 57 in January.

## Financial help for city

**CA** SAN DIEGO — City officials hired Lynn Turner, a former Securities and Exchange Commission accounting chief, to help sort out San Diego's troubled finances and complete overdue audits. The city is also contracting with Kroll Inc., a firm specializing in forensic accounting and litigation. San Diego has been hobbled by a pension deficit estimated at \$1.37 billion.

## Justices skeptical

**AZ** PHOENIX — Arizona Supreme Court justices expressed skepticism as a lawyer for the state argued that alleged racial profiling isn't a legal basis to challenge traffic stops. The court is considering whether minority group defendants are entitled to have an expert appointed for pretrial proceedings to support defense claims of racial profiling in traffic stops on Interstate 17 in Yavapai County.

## Cuts to reading program

**OH** COLUMBUS — The reading program that once was Gov. Bob Taft's top priority policy has been folded into a new reading office in the state Education Department. Taft's \$51 billion budget proposal released last week did not contain funding specific to Ohio Reads grants, as the past three Taft budgets have. A separate budget for supporting Ohio Reads' tutors also is being cut by 8 percent.

Stories and photos from wires services

## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRT's Web site at <http://myafm.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

FROM: FEBRUARY 18, 2005

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Slingshot	Movie *** "The Story Lady" (1991, Drama) Jessica Tandy. A retired widow's local newspaper publishes a notice.	Dr. Phil	Jocelyn	Nightline	College Basketball Duke at Virginia Tech. (Taped)	30 Minute Meals	Jocelyn
9:30	Sagwa-Siamcat Cat		(8:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Headline News		Easy Entertaining-Charlene	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(3:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Decorating Cents	ESPNNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)			The O.C. The New Kids on the Block	The O'Reilly Factor		The Look for Less	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamcat Cat	(10:48) Movie *** "Batman & Robin" (1997, Action)	(1:17) General Hospital	Survivor: Palau	PrimeTime Thursday	College Basketball UCLA at California. (Taped)	El News of Queens	The O.C. The New Kids on the Block
11:30	Stanley Scurry loses a race.		Headline News	Today	Fox and Friends		That '70s Show	Survivor
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Judge Judy	The Apprentice			Girlfriends "Sally Say"	The Apprentice
12:30	The Wiggles "Boats"		Today	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Strong Medicine "Miracle Cure"	Pacific Report
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Steel Magnolias" (1989) Sally Field. A non-wedding women gather at a Louisiana beauty parlor.	Today	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	College Basketball Louisville at Marquette. (Taped)	Any Day Now "Elephants in the Room"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	OWN Live Today		Third Watch "A Hero's Best"	Late Show With David Letterman
14:00	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Ozzy & Dixie "Hollers"			Friends	The Late Show With Craig Ferguson
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Codename: Kids Next Door	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	SportsCenter	Late Show With David Letterman	Law & Order "Burn Baby Burn"	Dennis Miller
15:00	Funnies Home Videos	(10:08) Movie *** "Crocodile Dundee" (1986) Paul Hogan. An Australian hunting legend saves the wife of Manhattan.	Jocelyn	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Duke at Virginia Tech.	The Simpsons	Headline News
15:30	Full House (Part 2 of 2)		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		JAG "A Tangled Web" (Part 2 of 2)	Headline News
16:00	Poison		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Boston Public "Chapter Forty"	Headline News
16:30	Yo-Yo! "Surfing the Past"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Hunters "Rulers of the Deep"	Headline News
17:00	Doug (E)		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Friends	Headline News
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
18:00	The Family OddParents		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
18:30	Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
19:00	All Grown Up		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
20:00	Dave the Barbarian		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
20:30	Daniel Phantom		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
21:00	Drake & Josh		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
21:30	That's So Raven		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
22:00	Phil of the Future		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
23:00	The Cosby Show "Mr. Cozby"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
23:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2005								
00:00	AAAH! Real Monsters	(10:20) Movie *** "Jackie Brown" (1997) Pam Grier.	Late Show-Letterman	All Grown Up	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up
00:30	Rocky Power		Access Hollywood	Powerpuff Girls!	NBC Nightly News		JAG "A Tangled Web" (Part 2 of 2)	Dave the Barbarian
1:00	The Family OddParents	(3:08) Movie *** "House Party" (1990) Christopher Reid. Robin Harris. A rap artist raves an impromptu house bash.	4 Ours	Daniel Phantom	ABC World News Tonight	NEA Basketball 2005 All-Star Skills Competition. From the Pepsi Center in Denver.	Boston Public "Chapter Forty Six"	NASCAR Racing Callman Truck Series - Florida Dodge Dealers 250. From Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. (Live)
1:30	Rugrats Jackie's new bed.		Headline News	Drake & Josh	NBC Nightly News		Hunters "Rulers of the Deep"	Headline News
2:00	All Grown Up		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Friends	Headline News
2:30	Dave the Barbarian		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
3:00	Daniel Phantom		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
3:30	Drake & Josh		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
4:00	That's So Raven		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
4:30	Phil of the Future		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
6:00	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
6:30	Stanley Scurry's new bed.		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
7:00	Planet's Funniest Animal Videos		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
7:30	Amazing Animal Videos		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
8:00	Lilo & Stitch "Frida"		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
8:30	Static Shock		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
9:00	Winx Club (E)		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
9:30	Tween Titans "AfterShock"		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
10:00	Ninja Mutant Ninja Turtles		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
11:00	Dragonball GT		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
11:30	Justice League		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
12:00	Ten Kids News (E)		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
12:30	Cyberchase "N-Fair City" (E)		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
13:00	Reading Spree: Boy-Girl		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
13:30	Scout's Honor! (E)		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
14:00	Planet's Funniest Animal Videos		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
14:30	Wild America		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
15:00	The Most Extreme Turtles		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
15:30	Hercules: The Legendary Journeys		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
16:00	Doug (E)		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
16:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
17:00	Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
17:30	The Family OddParents		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
18:00	Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
19:00	Movie *** "The Color of Friendship" (2000, Drama)		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
19:30	Cartoon Lumberjacks		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
20:00	Movie *** "Titan A.E." (2000) Voices of Matt Damon, Drew Barrymore, Bill Pullman.		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
20:30	American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
21:00	American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
21:30	American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
22:00	American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
22:30	American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
23:00	American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News
23:30	American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News		Seinfeld "The Scroff"	Headline News

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# FACES

## Kid Rock arrested at Nashville strip club

Kid Rock was arrested Wednesday by Nashville, Tenn., police on charges that he punched a disc jockey at a strip club.

The 34-year-old rapper was released after posting a \$3,000 bond on a charge of simple assault, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail.

Authorities said he was charged after a 3 a.m. altercation at Christie's Cabaret near downtown Nashville.

"Inside the establishment there was a squabble concerning, I guess, the selection of music," said Nashville police Sgt. James Smith.

Television footage from outside the club showed the DJ, identified as Jay Campos, with a red mark on his face and holding his broken eyeglasses.

## Nicolas Cage, wife expecting

Actor Nicolas Cage and his wife, Alice Kim, are expecting their first child, his publicist said Tuesday in Los Angeles.

"I can definitely confirm that," said spokeswoman Annett Wolf.

She declined to provide additional details.

The couple married in July. It was the third marriage for Cage, 41, and the first for his new wife, whom he met when he visited a Los Angeles restaurant where she was working as a waitress.

Cage, star of the recent hit "National Treasure," won the best actor Oscar for "Leaving Las Vegas." He has a son from a previous relationship.

## Crazy about sharp-dressed men

Katie Couric is going crazy for sharp-dressed men. Esquire magazine is launching a nationwide search for "The Best-Dressed Real Man in America," with the five finalists to appear on the "Today" show, co-hosted by Couric.

Beginning March 15, Esquire will sift through contestants in 10 U.S. cities. A panel of editors and "local celebrities" will judge who is a cut above the rest.

"Right now, men in the U.S. are showing more originality in personal style than ever before," said Esquire Editor-in-Chief David Granger.

The five finalists will appear on the NBC morning show in September. Viewers will be able to vote for their choice through Esquire's Web site.

## A long-awaited Grammy for N'Dour

"Perseverance always pays," said Youssou N'Dour of his first Grammy Award — for "Egypt," the winner for best contemporary world music album.

"It was a spiritual album. ... I tried something different and have made a leap forward in my career," N'Dour was quoted Tuesday as telling Senegal's government-run Le Soleil daily.

"This is the only thing I lacked in my long career," he said.

A superstar in his Western nation of Senegal, N'Dour rose to prominence in the United States and Europe in the 1980s with his country's homegrown popular music, mbalax.

The music is a mix of the traditional drumming of Senegal's Wolof ethnic group, African-rooted Cuban sounds and American soul and rock.

## Introductions by Destiny's Child

Say Shaq's name.

Destiny's Child will make the player introductions at the NBA All-Star Game Sunday, the basketball league announced Tuesday.

Country singers LeAnn Rimes and Big & Rich were also announced as the game's halftime performers for the game in Denver.

On Saturday, as part of the dunk contest and 3-point shootout festivities, Kelly Clarkson and the Goo Goo Dolls will perform.



Destiny's Child

Photos and stories from The Associated Press



Rappers The Game, left, and 50 Cent perform at the Vibe awards, held in November in Santa Monica, Calif.

# From drug dealer to No. 1

## The Game's debut 'The Documentary' makes a case for West Coast rap's return

BY RYAN PEARSON

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Myth-making can be as important as musicianship in the gangster rap world.

Tupac Shakur was known as the thoughtful son of a Black Panther activist. Eazy-E was a hustler who once sold tapes out of the trunk of his car.

And so The Game, who carefully studied their careers, introduces himself with this tale: Raised largely in foster care and beat up daily when he wore blood red to Crip-dominated Compton High School, he still managed to nab a basketball scholarship to Washington State — only to be kicked out for selling drugs on campus.

Uninterested in music at the time, he turned to stealing cars and other crimes, but was shot five times in 2001 when thieves invaded his drug-selling spot.

Twenty-three hours later, he says, "I woke up from a coma and I had the gift of rap."

Appearances on underground mixtapes rapidly led to a deal with super-producer Dr. Dre, who has tutored The Game and overseen his debut, "The Documentary."

Released last month, it's expected to be among the year's top-sellers. The CD tops this week's Billboard album chart.

The release includes a collaboration with 50 Cent, "How We Do." Another song, "Westside Story," gives the short version of Game's life: "Sold crack, got jacked. Got shot, came back, jumped on Dre's back. Payback! Homie, I'm bringing C-A back."

The C-A in question is California, where the seminal gangster rap scene has slumped in popularity recently as Dre looked elsewhere for talent (finding Eminem in Detroit and 50 Cent in New York) while pioneers like Ice Cube eased out of music.

The calculating, heavily tattooed 25-year-old Game, always ready with a snarl for videos and publicity photos, said he pieced together his style and persona by listening to Cube's "AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted," Tupac's "All Eyez On Me" and other rap landmarks.

"I tried to take everybody who I thought was legendary, who I thought had classic material, and combine 'em all," he said during a break between filming an independent movie and a meeting with Interscope

Records chairman Jimmy Iovine.

"I took Jay-Z's cockiness and his swagger. I took Pac's ambition and his work ethic. I took [Notorious] B.I.G.'s wordplay and his metaphorical climate. I took Snoop Dogg's gang-banging and California lifestyle. I took Kool G Rap and Ice Cube and their flow."

But Game, whose real name is Jayceon Taylor, doesn't even think of himself as primarily a musician.

"I consider myself to be a businessman," he said. "Doing music is a branch on the tree. The other branches are filmmaking and endorsements."

A Reebok sneaker deal is in the works, as is a movie, "Millionaire Boys Club." Michael K. Williams (Omar from HBO's "The Wire") and Shari Headley ("Coming to America") star alongside Game in the gangster tale and love story he describes as "a cross between 'Menace II Society' and 'Love Jones.'"

The film is currently in production; Game plans to shoot it to studios as a theatrical release. Next up, the 6-foot-4 rapper — nicknamed by his grandmother for being "game" to try anything as a child — is trying to get back on his mentor, Dr. Dre

into basketball. He went head-to-head with pros like Rafer Alston at last summer's Rucker Park tournament in New York. And as with his rap career, there are no plans to start small: He's aiming for a 10-day NBA contract.

"You ask anybody about my game, you'll see," he said.

What Game won't do is turn on Dre. He slows down and drops his voice when speaking of the legendary producer, whom he idolized along with other members of the pioneering Compton-based group N.W.A. When he was 10, he watched group members hand out gifts in his neighborhood and talk about his community on television.

"It was just beautiful. Everybody was feeling them," he said.

"I just felt like Compton was all one big family. I really appreciated it."

Now, having moved to a condominium in Beverly Hills, Game considers Dre both a mystical mentor and a life-saver, for pulling him out of his dangerous Compton life with a recording contract.

"He brings the best outta me. I owe everything to Dre," he said. "If it wasn't for Dre, I'd probably be dead right now."



## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s to mid-40s. Friday lows in the lower 30s.

**Britain, Ireland:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Friday lows in the mid to mid-30s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Friday lows in the mid-20s.

**France:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain and snow showers to the north and sunny to the south. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s. Friday lows in the lower to mid-30s.

**Northern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the 30s. Friday lows in the upper 20s.

**Southern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Friday lows in the upper teens to upper 20s.

**Hungary:** Cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Friday lows in the mid-20s.

**Northern Italy:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-40s. Friday lows in the upper 20s.

**Southern Italy:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Friday lows in the mid-30s to low 40s.

**Kosovo:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s. Friday lows in the upper teens to lower 20s.

**Norway:** Cloudy with isolated rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid-30s to lower 40s. Friday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Sunny. Highs in the 50s. Friday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

**Turkey:** Mostly cloudy with rain showers including isolated thunderstorms to the west. Highs in the mid-50s to lower 60s to the west and south, 40s to the north and inland. Friday lows in the 30s to the south and upper 30s to lower 40s elsewhere.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:  
<https://www.sembach.af.mil>  
<http://www.public.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN &amp; MOON

Today 6:44 A.M. 6:43 P.M.  
Sunrise (Baghdad) 7:31 A.M. 7:29 P.M.  
Sunrise (Frankfurt) 5:51 P.M. 5:52 P.M.  
Sunset (Frankfurt) 5:50 P.M. 5:51 P.M.



First 18 Feb 05 Full moon 24 Feb 05 Last 3 Mar 05 New moon 10 Mar 05

## AFRICA

Capetown	75	60	Mogadishu	89	74	LO
Dakar	75	61	Nairobi	82	58	HI
Freeport	88	74	Rabat	61	49	HI
Kinshasa	90	74	Tripoli	60	39	HI

## THE WORLD

Amsterdam	44	33	Manila	88	72	HI
Bahrain	71	54	Medan	73	48	HI
Beijing	34	14	Montreal	24	10	HI
Bombay	70	56	Riyadh	82	67	HI
Buenos Aires	68	53	Rio de Jan	86	73	HI
Calcutta	88	73	Sofia	35	18	HI
Caracas	88	73	Sydney	80	71	HI
Chicago	36	17	Tokyo	49	41	HI

## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska, Tex.	48	41	City	22	15	City	33	19	City	62	45	City	55	50	Rain	55	50	Rain
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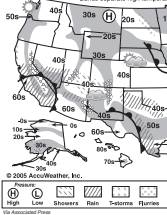
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Alaska, Tex.	48	41	City	22	15	City	33	19	City	62	45	City	55	50	Rain	55	50	Rain

## THE UNITED STATES

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



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High Low Snow Rain Tornadoes Frost Ice Sunny Partly Cloudy Cloudy

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# Horoscope

The annual solar transit into Pisces starts like a poignant distant coo solo. Melancholic strings confirm that something profound is about to happen, and indeed it will. But the big event is in our heart, mind and spirit, not an external plot twist we must read to.

The moon harmonizes, moving into moody Cancer. Home wraps us in comfort.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 18).** It's a year of healing and renewal.

You're so impressive to colleagues, friends and family through the next four weeks that you are offered a rare opportunity. Love takes root in March, and you're open to it. New additions to the family are featured in April. Take a financial chance in June, and you'll finally have the money for that wish. Your lucky numbers are 9, 20, 45, 16 and 23.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You're taken in by glamour, but who isn't? When the fog clears, just be sure you're good to the ones who are good to you. Loosen the purse strings—it's not a crime to spoil yourself or loved ones once in a while.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Anything having to do with the building of wealth and power gets your attention. Try to lighten up around loved ones, though. Fun has a more important role in your life than you may realize.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're getting steam with your personal-life life. You may even eliminate someone from further contention for the position of Mr./Ms. Right. Hey—the competition is tough! Finances reflect your new attitude.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Nothing is out of your league—unless you believe it is. Your self-imposed limitations are obvious to you now. Try to stretch the boundaries. Interview an Aquarius or Sagittarius, and consider strongly what you learn.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Events

reinforce the idea that every ending is a new beginning. Don't skip the final stages of a cycle in order to get on with the new thing. This will only stunt your progress. Get closure where necessary.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Oh, the games you'll play—especially when it's about love! You appear not to care at all what the object of your desire thinks of you—how seductive. When you're not attached to the outcome, you win.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There are unlimited possibilities of who you can be and what you can realize. Having more choices doesn't make you feel any more in control, though. To prevent confusion, identify specifically what fits your mission.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** What will it take? Share your saucy musings. Socializing with you now is like biting into a scrumptious truffle; it leaves a wonderful taste in the mouth accompanied by the wanting for more.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You needn't feel guilty or mad when the financial scene doesn't quite balance out. Chalk it up to a revenue shortfall, and move on. Keeping money in its proper perspective is a challenge. Put people first!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your tolerance is low for people who come across as powerless to improve things. You know it's an act, something they've convinced themselves of that has nothing to do with reality. Don't give in!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** If you are rich in terms of time and a sense of fulfillment, then you are rich indeed. Tonight, it's lucky to put yourself into a deeply relaxed and tranquil state to review and refine your goals.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You could come to the realization that you are the person who needs to change. Instead of seeing the weaknesses in the other person, re-direct your thoughts. Take the necessary action.

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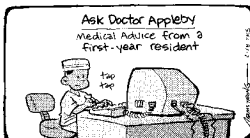
## Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



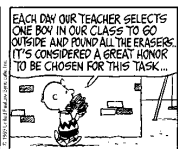
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



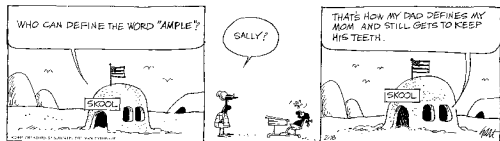
## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



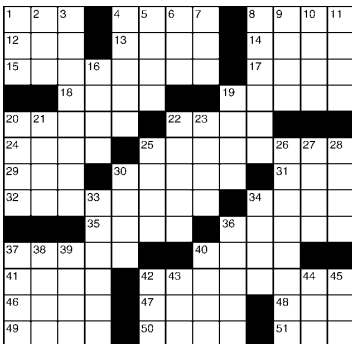
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Billboards
- 4 Karate maneuver
- 8 Faux pas
- 12 Debtor's letters
- 14 Firetruck necessity
- 15 Goalie, e.g.
- 17 Hold the scepter
- 18 Suitable
- 19 Duck down
- 20 Tinkerbell, for one
- 22 Soothing ointment
- 24 Formerly
- 25 Translate, in a way
- 29 "A Chorus Line"
- 30 Emanations
- 31 Bullring bravo
- 32 Courtier
- 34 Child's play
- 35 "—the Fokkers"
- 36 Starts
- 37 Dangerous swarm
- 40 Fix, in a sense
- 41 Sheltered
- 42 Last page?
- 46 Grad rags?
- 47 It ends with 42-Across
- 48 Diamond arbiter
- 49 Fax
- 50 Exile site
- 51 Exod., Lev., ...

## Down

- 1 Succor
- 2 The buck stops here
- 3 Serves the purpose
- 4 Shrewd
- 5 Stash
- 6 Praise in verse
- 7 Standard
- 8 Scampi
- 9 Ear-splitting
- 10 Castaways' home
- 11 Juror, theoretically
- 16 Green land
- 19 Yale alumni
- 20 Comestibles
- 21 Mrs. Shakespeare
- 22 Jaunty chapeau
- 23 Rent — agency
- 25 Frank Herbert book
- 26 Sweetheart
- 27 Verve
- 28 Agents, for short
- 30 Census statistics
- 33 Hang in the balance
- 34 Junk e-mail
- 36 La Scala offering
- 37 Jesters
- 38 Lotion additive
- 39 Stitched
- 40 Strikebreaker
- 42 Turn red?
- 43 Wet wriggler
- 44 Ostich's kin
- 45 Turntable abbr.

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 2-18

## CRYPTOQUIP

HJSEI XGNX HRNXYDRM  
 DSEG FRPFJR NZL WNEDNWR  
 NDXSMXM: "XGR GNKR  
 NZL XGR GNKR-IZPXM."  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE OUT  
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 YOU'RE ON A SCAVENGER HUNT.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H





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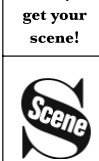
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# DEI cars not the only contenders at Daytona this year

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Picking a favorite at Daytona used to be easy: Just look for the DEI logo.

Not anymore.

Sure, defending Daytona 500 champion Dale Earnhardt Jr. and two-time winner Michael Waltrip figure to run up front in Thursday's 150-mile qualifying races, which set most of the field for Sunday's big race.

But the list of potential contenders runs much longer than Dale Earnhardt Inc., the restrictor plate-savvy team that has dominated the 2 1/2-mile, high-banked oval for several years.

Dale Jarrett already has clinched a spot on the pole. Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson and the rest of the Hendrick Motorsports drivers are running strong. And, in Wednesday's final practice, Jeremy Mayfield turned in the fastest speed.

"It was a matter of time before somebody found out what DEI was doing," Tony Stewart said. "Whether Hendrick has found it or not or if they found something else, they're pretty stout right now."

Waltrip won his first 500 in 2001, the same day Earnhardt's father and DEI's namesake — a seven-time NASCAR Cup champion — was involved in a fatal crash on the final turn.



Jimmie Johnson, right, helps his crew push his Chevrolet back to the garage after a practice run Wednesday at Daytona International Speedway. Johnson will be starting the Daytona 500 on the front row.

Two years later, Waltrip won again in a rain-shortened 500. Then it was Junior's turn in Victory Lane, giving DEI its third victory in four years.

Adding to their domination, Waltrip or Earnhardt has won a qualifying race each of the last three years. Clearly, DEI knows how to run fast with the horsepower-sapping plates that NASCAR mandates at its two fastest tracks, Daytona and Talladega.

Apparently, some of those lessons have rubbed off on their competitors.

"There are more guys that have a shot this year than in recent years," Stewart said.

The top two spots in the 43-car field were determined in qualifying last weekend. Jarrett, a three-time 500 winner, posted the fastest speed, with Johnson claiming the outside of the front row.

The rest of the starting order will be determined by the two 150-mile qualifying races, though the top 35 teams from 2004 are guaranteed spots in Sunday's race. Four more drivers also got

in through their qualifying speeds last weekend.

On Thursday, there will be 18 drivers vying for the last four spots — two from each race.

For potential racers such as Stanton Barrett, it won't be easy to squeeze in.

"We have a good sponsor, but the funding of other teams is so significant," he said. "It should be fun. It's going to be good experience, even if I don't make the race."

Hermie Sadler, older brother of Cup star Elliott Sadler, hopes to get in, too.

"There are going to be eight or nine cars in our race going for two spots," the older Sadler said. "That's the reality of it, so we've got to be really, really smart about getting where we need to get as far as track position. We need to get in front of the cars we're racing against."

NASCAR has thrown another obstacle into the mix this year, adding 10 laps and 25 miles to each of the qualifying races. With smaller gas tanks already forcing everyone to make a pit stop at the shorter distance, the extended race could mean two pit stop strategies for some teams.

"We'll probably give the race 15 to 20 laps to settle out," Hermie Sadler said. "We might have to take some chances, especially with that last pit stop. It's unlikely

we're going to drive by everybody with where we're starting."

Ricky Rudd expects some hard racing Thursday, but probably not a whole lot of crazy moves — at least not from the drivers already in the big race.

"Now, the guys that are not in field, you'll see anything and everything from them," Rudd said. "If they've got to make an aggressive move to make the cut, they'll do it."

Kyle Petty wishes NASCAR had gotten rid of the qualifying races altogether, rather than add another 10 laps.

"I don't see a need for the 125s," Petty said, referring to the former distance. "These guys qualified. They work all winter long. They get their cars ready. They come down here and qualify and it should be like any other race."

Stewart is downright ambivalent about the whole thing.

"I don't even understand how it works," he said. "To be honest, I don't really care. I know I'm in."

Earnhardt and Waltrip are in, too. And, despite dismal qualifying runs and some disappointing practice speeds, it's too soon to count out DEI.

"From what I've seen of the 8 car (Earnhardt) and from I've seen of the 15 car (Waltrip), they seem like the strongest cars," Gordon said. "But I don't think that we can't beat them."

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# Next: A tidy solution to a messy salary

TEXT, FROM BACK PAGE

ment players who will skate under a salary cap system that lowers total player payrolls from a current 76 percent of league revenues to something closer to 50 percent.

If the course is taken, this season's lockout likely would turn into next season's strike while the NHL tries to reopen with replacement players.

"We will continue to explore and pursue all available options in order to achieve a successful resolution," Bettman said. "Virtually immediately, we as an organization at the league level and our clubs are going to begin planning for a 2005-2006 season. ... We've obviously pursue a collective bargaining agreement with the players' association. That remains our goal. But obviously ... we will explore all of our options, and we haven't done that to date."

The union could go to court or the U.S. National Labor Relations Board to challenge the impasse, although the NLRB would have no jurisdiction over the NHL's five Canadian teams. If the challenge is successful, the union could prevent the league from resuming play, possibly forcing Bettman back to the bargaining table and dragging the dispute deep into next season.

Another possibility is that the union dissolves, a process known as "decertification," and players then bring an antitrust action against the owners for collusion. The NFL Players' Association successfully decertified against the NFL back in 1989, forcing the league back to the bargaining table for a deal that the union deemed favorable.

Another further scenario has the players, or a media mogul such as Rupert Murdoch, starting a hockey league to replace the NHL. By next summer, 80 percent of the players' individual contracts binding them to their teams and to the current labor negotiations — will have expired, allowing those players to join another hockey league or form their own. Murdoch successfully created a rugby league in England last year, and he has ambitions to go for his global media empire, which includes satellite television, Fox Sports, 20th Century Fox movie studios and more.

"That's the area where the uncharted waters goes in both directions," said J.P. Barry, the Calgary-based managing director of IMG hockey, with 70 NHL players under contract including Daniel Alfredsson, Jaromir Jagr and Mats Sundin. "Let's say Rupert Murdoch and Bill Gates all of a sudden start a league to promise players contract and conditions better than the uncertainty that they have now. These are just possibilities, but you never know."

Certainly nothing that happened over the past several days suggests any solution will be easily attained. Both sides had made major concessions in face-to-face meetings starting in Washington on Sunday, moving to a Sheraton hotel at Niagara Falls, N.Y., on Monday and concluding with a series of faxed letters between their respective headquarters in New York and Toronto on Tuesday night.

After opposing any salary control system for months, the players on Sunday signaled that they might accept a cap, which they set at \$52 million per team in a meeting with the league in Niagara Falls. Bettman countered with a \$42.5 million offer Tuesday night, and the union responded a few hours later with \$49 million. The owners in turn dropped their insistence that overall player salaries and benefits not exceed a certain percentage of league-wide revenue.

Though the sides appeared only \$6.5 million apart on a salary cap, that number multiplied across 30 teams is nearly \$200 million, which Bettman said would have continued to cause the league to lose money.

He said that even at \$42.5 million, NHL owners collectively probably would have lost money for at least two more years, although some stability may have been achieved beyond that.

The agreement we made was we would take the economic risk of agreeing to a fixed cap unrelated to revenues. But there was only so much of that risk that we were prepared to absorb," Bettman said. "And the higher the cap, the more risk we took. ... We couldn't be in the 50s or the high 40s."

Goodenow said the players compromised on a number of fronts, including a 24 percent



NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said the league "will explore all of our options."

across-the-board rollback on all existing player contracts that would have saved owners \$500 million over two years and \$1 billion in the long run.

"We have said before that they do not want to earn a dollar more than they are worth," Goodenow said Wednesday. "The players wanted to reach a fair agreement, but they never had a negotiating partner."

This is the third work stoppage for the NHL, which postponed 30 games because of a 10-day strike in 1992. Owners locked out the players over labor differences for 103 days in 1994-95, which cut the regular season from 84 games to 48. The league was able to bounce back, but still mount a credible Stanley Cup race, but the loss of a season could be far worse for the already-hobbled NHL, which has been struggling against a minuscule television audience in the United States and growing fan apathy.

That returns to the original question: What's next?

"The game is a mess right now," Washington Capitals forward Jeff Halpern said.

And while both sides dig in for another standoff, a third party can do nothing but watch. "The fans are still left holding their hands in the air, wondering what's next," said Doug Siler, a Buffalo, N.Y.,-based fan who has organized a campaign to express the fan's frustration during the NHL lockout.

"The fans are still left holding their hands in the air, wondering what's next," said Doug Siler, a Buffalo, N.Y.,-based fan who has organized a campaign to express the fan's frustration during the NHL lockout. "Both players and owners have been preparing for this lockout for years. ... I think they will play hockey next year, but with some major changes. I think a lot of players will break with the union and play hockey next year. The owners are going to bust the union. The players are in a no-win situation. The owners have to take drastic measures with 60 of the teams losing money."

# Lemieux: Star says small cities need a better deal

LEMIEUX, FROM BACK PAGE

canceled the 2004-05 season Wednesday there would be a last-minute labor agreement to save the season — and, in his mind, the sport.

"This morning, I thought the two sides would get together before the press conference and make a deal ... that, at the end of the day, there would be too much of a stake for both sides," Lemieux said Wednesday. "But I knew and understood throughout this process that it would be a long battle."

Lemieux is the best-known player in modern American pro sports history, but there never was a chance he would side with the players despite being the NHL's best-known star.

"A few years ago, I thought the owners were making a lot of money and were hiding some under the table," he said. "But then I got on this side and saw the losses this league was accumulating."

Lemieux tried several weeks ago to secretly move along a deal, meeting in Toronto with Maple Leafs owner Larry Tanenbaum and player Teo Doni to try to bridge the gap between the league and its players' union. He was unsuccessful.

"It's been difficult," Lemieux said. "I don't want to say the wrong things on either side and that's why I've chosen to stay away from the negotiations."

Lemieux said he would be damaged by shutting down for a full season, but is confident it will make a strong return with rules changes designed to make the sport more fan-friendly and entertaining — something he has sought for years.

"The game is going to suffer for a couple of years and it's going to take time to win back our fans and rebuild the business," he said. "And the players are going to have to share in that."

The labor impasse couldn't come at a more critical time for the Penguins, two-time Stanley Cup champions who enjoyed considerable on-ice success from 1991 to 2001 until soaring salary costs forced Lemieux to get rid of all of the team's stars except himself.

"I couldn't afford myself," he said, referring to the below-market \$5 million salary he paid himself last season.

With attendance down three consecutive losing seasons amid the sell-off of players such as Jaromir Jagr and Alexei Kovalev, Lemieux said the 38-year-old franchise's existence depends on a more favorable labor contract and a new arena.

As his career, Lemieux plans to keep playing once the NHL returns to the ice, despite missing 145 games due to injury over the last two seasons.

"I've done it before, taken a few years off, but it gets tougher and tougher, once you get closer to 40, to lose a year," said Lemieux, who turns 40 on October 17. "I'll prepare myself this summer to come back and play."

# Quick fix? How about a 20-game season?

BY ASHLEY MCGEACHY

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Here's a suggestion for Gary Bettman, Bob Goodenow and the rest of the National Hockey League: Play a 20-game season.

This year. Next year. Every year.

On Wednesday, the NHL canceled its season, a sad, inevitable event after 154 days of a lockout based on — what else — the almighty dollar. Instead of compromising on a salary cap, hockey has forfeited an insane amount of money, financially crippling the league, the teams and the players as well as local businesses and their workers.

Concessionaires, sporting goods merchants, bar, restaurants and vendors, whose livelihoods revolve around hockey, may have been devastated.

When Bettman and Goodenow reopen their negotiations and talk about next season, they should immediately agree to trim the 82-game play by 62. Start training camp the day after the Super

Commentary

Bowl, when a void in the site, California hits sports fans. Have it last a week. Then

bring on the games.

Fans are angry, but as baseball's brood taught us after the strike of 1994, most are fickle as long as there's a hook. For America's pastime, that hook was the compelling, if not suspicious (wink, wink, Jose Canseco), home run drive in 1998 between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. Fans watched the gripping assault on Roger Maris' record and in the process rediscovered their love of baseball and subsequently returned to the ballpark's having forgotten, if not forgotten.

Hockey needs a hook. Think of the ramifications of a shortened season. Every game would have major consequences — it does in the NFL, doesn't it? — and therefore generate a play-off type atmosphere every night. Fans would pack the arenas (cha-ching) to see vicious checks and masterful goaltending and

frenetic offense, and the teams that really were dedicated to winning would be compelled to stack their rosters with the best players available.

The Washington Capitals and Panthers and Pittsburgh Penguins can't afford to pay big bucks to be competitive? Fine. Their fans wouldn't have to suffer through 82 games of heartbreak. The agony would be over quicker.

Aside from a small group of hard-core hockey fans and the sportswriters assigned to cover the league, who in the United States really cares about hockey in November and December? Or, to be fair, about the NBA?

The end of the year is about football, football and more football. High schools are playing for state titles. The college season is wrapping up, with teams vying for conference championships and players making cases for the Heisman Trophy. And the NFL season is in full bloom, with teams challenging for the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Did anyone in Philadelphia really miss the Flyers while the Eagles were pushing toward the

Super Bowl? Maybe a few people did, but not me.

On Monday, after getting home from Jacksonville, Fla., I would have watched a little hockey. Not before.

To make things more entertaining, the NHL should do away with annoying ties. A tie does nothing for the fans but leave them with an unsatisfying moral victory.

Instead of allowing a game to end in a tie, have a maximum of two 15-minute overtime periods. If the score is still tied, move to a sudden-death shootout. One shot for victory. That would be must-see TV.

While they're at it, Bettman and Goodenow should consider other changes. Widen the rink. Expand the goal. Severely punish fighting. Play four-on-four.

Do anything you can to promote offense, because while there are purists who appreciate a defensive battle, the casual fan loves scoring. After Wednesday's announcement that the NHL will have to recruit fans back to the game, and that will probably mean attracting new fans.



# no free chicken as Illinois cruises

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The rally towels were on every seat and a local restaurant promised free chicken wings for every fan if Penn State could pull off an upset of top-ranked Illinois.

By the end, those towels may as well have been white flags, and no one was eating any hot dog at a concession stand hot dog.

Roger Powell Jr., went 10-for-10 from the field and scored 21 points and De Brown added 19 points to lead No. 1 Illinois to its 26th straight victory, 83-63 over Penn State on Wednesday night.

Illinois (12-0, 12-0 Big Ten) topped the school record of 25 consecutive victories set over three seasons from February 1914 to February 1916.

"Streaks aren't important," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said. "Winning the Big Ten, getting the high seed, advancing March into April is what's important. But at the same time, you've got to feel proud about what you've accomplished."

Penn State (7-17, 1-10) was just another easy victim, falling to 0-10 against top-ranked teams.

Geary Claxton led the Nittany Lions with 19 points, the only player with a double figures.

Illinois was the first top-ranked team to play at the 9-year-old Bryce Jordan Center and the first to visit State College since Indiana in 1993. In that one, coach Bob Knight and the Hoosiers



Illinois' James Augustine beats Penn State's Ben Luber to a loose ball during the top-ranked Fighting Illini's 83-63 win over the Nittany Lions.

needed two overtime to escape with a 88-84 victory.

Twelve years later, there was no such excitement for the home crowd.

Illinois was simply too quick, too talented and too deep to let a team like Penn State even come close — no matter how hard the Nittany Lions tried to prepare in practice.

"For me, it's like going to my first hockey game. I never appreciated the speed of the puck until I saw hockey in person for the first time," Penn State coach Ed DeChellis said. "I can kind of equate it with what we saw tonight. They're very, very fast and you can't simulate in practice what we saw tonight."

The Illini scored the first seven

points, then Brown had two straight steals, turning one into a fast-break layup and another into a nifty assist for Luther Head, and the blowout was on. Deron Williams and Brown hit consecutive three-pointers for a 38-19 lead and the Illini cruised to a 52-30 halftime advantage.

"I think we broke their spirit down the stretch in the first half," Weber said.

Powell made all eight of his shots in the first half, when Brown had 10 of his 11 assists.

"We could have played harder and come out with more intensity on defense," Claxton said.

Powell shook off a four-game slump (8-for-21 shooting) and matched his season high for points.

"It was good to make some baskets, but the guards set me up," Powell said.

Head finished with 16 points and Illinois' 12-for-28 on three-pointers while extending its record winning streak to 13 games, best in the nation.

"They're so unselfish. That's how basketball should look," Penn State guard Mike Walker said.

Illinois would have it no other way. In the first half, the Illini had 19 assists on 22 baskets and finished with 27 assists overall on 34 baskets.

"We moved the ball, we pushed it," Weber said. "Our guys came to play."

# Virginia's slower pace can't stop Carolina

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Rashad McCants shrugged off his recent poor shooting, only 20 percent on three-pointers over the previous five games. After all, North Carolina won four of those games, right?

"I really wasn't out there worrying about that," McCants said. "I was actually thinking about the team."

McCants had 23 points and Sean May added 17 points and 16 rebounds, helping the fourth-ranked Tar Heels pull out an 85-61 victory over Virginia on Wednesday night.

Jawad Williams and Raymond Felton each scored 12 points for the Tar Heels (21-3, 9-2 ACC), who had won within one-half game of first place Wake Forest in the Atlantic Coast Conference. McCants had a season-high six assists as North Carolina won for seven consecutive games.

"I was happy to see Rashad make a bunch of shots," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said. "I never lost confidence in him in my second year."

With both teams celebrating "Throwback Night" — they donned retro uniforms based on 1980s designs — the Cavaliers (13-6) might have taken it a bit too literally. They continued their slowdown tactics started earlier this month by coach Pete

## Men's Top 25 Roundup

Gillen, holding the ball on nearly every possession while the shot clock wound down.

It was a bit reminiscent of the 1982 ACC championship game, when the Tar Heels beat the Cavaliers 47-45 after stalling for the final 7½ minutes. That game — with players such as Michael Jordan, James Worthy and Ralph Sampson on the court — is generally credited with forcing the eventual implementation of the shot clock.

The slower style certainly has worked for Gillen, who led Virginia in out of the conference cellar with three straight victories.

"It's the first time we've lost in four games, so you can't argue with it," said Virginia guard Gary Forbes, who had 23 points on 8-for-11 shooting.

Still, it ultimately failed even though the Cavaliers started much closer than in the earlier matchup this season, a 110-76 Carolina blowout.

**No. 6 Boston College 74, Rutgers 64:** Sean Marshall scored 22 points and Jared Dudley had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Eagles (21-1, 10-1 Big East), who were playing for the first time since losing at Notre Dame on Feb. 8.

Ricky Shields scored 16 points for the visiting Scarlet Knights (8-14, 2-10).

**No. 11 Michigan St. 81, Minnesota 62:** Shannon Brown had 18 points and Maurice Ager added 16 for the Spartans (18-4, 9-2 Big Ten), who have won 15 of 17, the last four by double figures. Vincent Grier had 19 points for the visiting Golden Gophers (16-9, 6-6).

**No. 16 Alabama 72, Arkansas 63:** Chuck Davis scored 16 of his 21 points in the second half and the Crimson Tide (20-4, 9-2 Southeastern Conference) won 20 of the second straight season.

Jonathon Modica scored 16 points for the visiting Razorbacks (17-8, 5-7), who had a three-game winning streak snapped.

**No. 19 Pacific Tr. UC Santa Barbara 56:** Guillaume Yang scored 16 points and the Tigers (21-2, 15-0) clinched the Big West regular-season title with their 17th straight victory overall and 28th in a row in conference play.

Joe See and Alex Harris each scored 16 points for the Gauchos (8-14, 5-8).

**No. 20 Wisconsin 76, Michigan 50:** Mike Wilkinson had 22 points and nine rebounds for the Badgers (17-6, 8-4 Big Ten), who swept Michigan for the first time since 1979.

Courtney Sims scored 16 points for the visiting Wolverines (12-14,

3-9), who matched a school record with their ninth straight loss. The last time Michigan lost nine in a row was the final eight games in 1965-67 and the opener the following season.

**No. 21 Oklahoma 83, Nebraska 60:** Terrell Everett scored 18 points for the Sooners (18-6, 7-4 Big 12), who snapped a three-game losing streak. Oklahoma had lost four of five after a 10-game winning streak.

Joe McCray had 21 points for Nebraska (11-1, 4-7), which has lost seven straight to Oklahoma.

**No. 23 Charlotte 66, DePaul 62:** Curtis Withers scored 18 points for the 49ers (18-4, 9-2 Conference USA), who won at home in their first game in six years as a ranked team.

Drake Diener tied a school record with seven three-pointers and had 25 points for the Blue Demons (16-6, 8-3). His last three 62-62 with 56 seconds left, but Brendan Plavich made three free throws in the final half-minute to clinch it.

**No. 24 Cincinnati 83, Southern Mississippi 51:** Jason Marklund scored 20 points and Eric Hicks had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the host Bearcats (19-6, 7-4 Conference USA), who had a 44-19 rebound advantage. Rashad Garris scored 16 points for Southern Miss (10-14, 1-11), which has lost six in a row for the second time this season.

# N.C. State rolls over Maryland

BY AARON BEARD

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State's fleet-footed hopes of reaching the NCAA tournament have come down to a handful of games.

Ilan Evtimov and Tony Bethel each scored 17 points Wednesday night to lift the Wolfpack to an 82-63 victory over No. 22 Maryland, earning its first regular-season sweep in the series since the 1988-89 season.

Julius Hodge added 13 points and nine assists for the Wolfpack (15-10, 5-7 Atlantic Coast Conference), who led by 20 in the first half and held on for their first home victory over Maryland in five years.

It was a desperately needed victory for the Wolfpack, who opened 10-1, then lost 11 of 12 to jeopardize a bid for a fourth straight NCAA tournament bid.

N.C. State was coming off a 53-51 victory at Georgia Tech, last week's national runner-up. The Wolfpack played three of their final four games at home — though two were against No. 4 North Carolina and No. 5 Wake Forest — but the chance to correct a season gone awry.

"We're very confident," Evtimov said. "We also know that we don't have any room for error right now. We want to have a postseason — anything — we've got to play hard and we've got to try to win every game we can. We've lost any kind of margin for error we've ever had."

N.C. State knows it will need more efforts like the one against the Terrapins (15-8, 6-6), who were coming off an overtime victory over No. 7 Duke.

N.C. State played unselfishly on offense, choosing crisp passing over 1-on-1 basketball to get open shots. The Wolfpack had 13 three-pointers — many coming on kickouts from the post or off penetration — and finished with 22 assists on 25 field goals.

Volleyball coach went 19-for-21 at the free-throw line, where the team has shot just 69 percent this season.

"We played well offensively, Maryland's defense and we were hitting on all cylinders," N.C. State coach Herb Sendek said.

Maryland coach Gary Williams was displeased with his team, which had beaten the Blue Devils 99-92 in overtime over the weekend to earn its first sweep of Duke in a decade.

"I guess we were feeling pretty good about ourselves," Williams said. "I guess they made us pay (the Duke win) as a springboard to the next game."

Nick Caner-Medley scored 17 of his 19 points in the first half to lead the Terps, but got little help and didn't hit a field goal after halftime.

Maryland led 20-19 after a three-pointer by Caner-Medley, but the Wolfpack answered with a 25-4 run to take control.



# Tiger looking to start streak, end their's

## Woods pursues first Nissan Open victory as Canadian goes for No. 3

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tiger Woods can't win at Riviera.

Mike Weir just can't seem to lose. Woods made his PGA Tour debut in the Nissan Open as a 16-year-old amateur and missed the cut two straight years. Once he turned pro, the results only slightly improved.

The fabled course on Sunset Boulevard is the only PGA Tour stop he has played at least four times without winning.

"No doubt about it, I'd like to win," Woods said Wednesday. "Hopefully, this will be the year."

Weir played the Nissan Open for the first time as a PGA Tour rookie in 1998 and promptly missed the cut the first four times out. But the Canadian eventually figured it out.

Now, he sets out Thursday trying to become the first player in the 79-year history of the tournament to win three straight times.

Of the other five repeat champions, only Ben Hogan won three straight at Riviera—the last was the 1948 U.S. Open.

"Usually in the big scheme of things, I don't look at records too much," Weir said. "But I thought about this one. This course has a lot of



Tiger Woods watches his drive on the ninth hole at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles as he plays in the Pro-Am round of the Nissan Open on Wednesday.

history. I'd like to add a little piece of it I could."

Despite a sluggish start to his season, Weir looked poised to do that.

Four days ago, he at least gave Phil Mickelson something to think about in the final round at Pebble Beach with one of the best

ball-striking rounds of the year. Ten shots back, Weir closed the gap to four before Mickelson steadied himself to win by that margin.

In cold, wet and breezy conditions, Weir hit every fairway and missed only one green.

"I didn't play very well until the last week, so that was a big confidence boost to play well there in those conditions, and come in here with some good confidence on a course that I like."

The former Masters champion doesn't have a method for winning at Riviera.

Weir made up a seven-shot deficit in the final round two years ago by closing with a 5-under 66 to get into a playoff against Charles Howell, then beat him on the second extra hole.

Last year, Weir took a five-shot lead into the final round and threw it all away on the back nine thanks to a tremendous charge by Shigeki Maruyama. But just when the Canadian was headed for a collapse, he nearly chipped in from the side of the hill on the 18th green and won by a shot.

"Even from the first time I played Riviera, I loved the golf course," Weir said. "The first couple of years, I never played well there, but I thought it was the type of course that set up well for my game. Just the way the course is shaped, you have to use your imagination out there."

"It took me a couple of years to get a handle on it, but I like the place."

Woods and Weir are the only players entered from the world's top 10.

Open champion Retief Goosen was supposed to play, but didn't get a wake-up call

Wednesday morning and missed his pro-am time. Under the PGA Tour's policy, players cannot be in a tournament if they don't take part in the pro-am.

Woods is coming off a three-week break. With Vijay Singh missing the cut at Pebble Beach and taking this week off, Woods only has to finish fourth to regain the No. 1 ranking Singh has held the last 24 weeks.

"The No. 1 ranking is really not that important to me. It's winning," Woods said. "Winning is how I get to No. 1 in the world... (How) Vijay got to be No. 1 in the world... and the guys behind us."

"You have to win. I have started to put together some wins here. It's been really cool, and hopefully I can continue that trend."

Woods has won three of his last four stroke-play tournaments, including the unofficial Target World Challenge.

His record at the Nissan Open will show top-10 finishes the last two years, but only because Woods closed with rounds of 64 and 65 after he was no longer a factor in the tournament that has become his Achilles' heel.

Sam Snead never won the U.S. Open. Arnold Palmer never won a PGA Championship. Jack Nicklaus never won the Canadian Open despite seven runner-up finishes. And then there's Woods and his hometown tournament.

"I have some great memories, some nervous memories," he said.

"It's just been great over the years to see the same people out here. It's basically my hometown. So it's great to see my friends out here, it's very special event."

For it to be extra special, he might have to seek the advice of Weir.

## Headaches send Bruschi to hospital

The Associated Press

BOSTON — New England Patriots linebacker Teddy Bruschi spent the night in Massachusetts General Hospital after complaining of headaches and was scheduled for testing Thursday.

Bruschi, 31, was in good condition Wednesday night, said team spokesman Stacey James, who had no update

Thursday morning.

Bruschi, a 6-foot-1, 247-pound

nine-year NFL veteran, is a key member of New England's defense that has helped the team win three of the past four Super Bowls, including a 24-21 win over the Philadelphia Eagles on Feb. 6.

"The Bruschi family appreciates everyone's concern, but requests that you respect their privacy at this time," the team said in a statement Wednesday.

Bruschi was expected to receive an update later Thursday, James said.

A spokeswoman for Massachusetts General Hospital referred all questions to the Patriots.

Bruschi, selected in the third round of the 1996 draft out of Arizona, was second on the team in sacks during the regular season with 122, behind only safety Rodney Harrison with 138. He also had 3.5 sacks and three interceptions during the regular season.

He had two fumble recoveries in the team's 20-3 divisional play-

off win over the Indianapolis Colts Sunday, an interception in the Super Bowl.

He has 753 tackles, 25 sacks and 11 interceptions in his career. He also played in last weekend's Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

### Titans' Williams arrested

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Titans safety Tank Williams was arrested early Thursday and charged with driving under the influence after a police officer saw his vehicle make a rolling stop at a downtown intersection.

The 24-year-old strong safety smelled of alcohol, had red and watery eyes and registered a 0.08 percent when his breath was tested, the police affidavit said. That's the minimum blood-alcohol reading for intoxication under Tennessee law.

Titans spokesman Robbie Bohren confirmed the arrest and said the club is gathering more information before commenting.

A first-time DUI conviction can be punished with a one-year suspension of the driver's license, a fine between \$350 and \$1,500 and jail time ranging from two days to a year.

### Fowler's bio updated to fix inaccurate claims

MINNEAPOLIS — A public relations firm representing prospective Minnesota Vikings owner Reggie Fowler issued a revised "fact sheet" on Fowler Wednesday after questions were raised about the accuracy of an official biography.



New England Patriots linebacker Teddy Bruschi plays with his son, T.J., 4, before Super Bowl XXXIX. Bruschi was hospitalized in Boston on Wednesday after complaining of headaches.

Fowler's original bio claimed he played in the NFL and CFL and in the Little League World Series as a 11-year-old, and implied that he earned a business administration and finance degree from the University of Wyoming.

The Star Tribune reported Wednesday that the claims were incorrect or overstated. Fowler, a former University of Wyoming linebacker, never made it out of an NFL training camp and doesn't appear in player databases for either league.

The new sheet includes no Little League mention and clarifies his degree was in social work. It clarifies that Fowler attended training camp with the Cincinnati Bengals, but still includes playing in 1983 for the CFL's Calgary Stampeders.

## NBA changing beer sales policies in wake of brawl

The Associated Press

DENVER — The NBA is issuing guidelines to limit the size and number of beers sold at basketball games and have teams announce what type of fan behavior is considered unacceptable, league Commissioner David Stern said.

The new league-wide security regulations, taking effect next week, are an attempt to prevent another brawl like the November ruckus at a Detroit Pistons-Indiana Pacers game.

They will cover such topics as the number of security officers teams should employ, as well as their tactics and placement in the arenas, Stern told. The Denver Post for a story published Thursday.

The league office could penalize teams that do not adhere to the guidelines, and fans who become unruly "might not see the end of the game," Stern told the Post.

"We are not looking to eject fans," he said. "We look at this as an opportunity to remind people that coming to an arena is an opportunity to share an experience of rooting a home team on to victory and booing the opposition, but not doing it in an anti-social way that goes against our civil society."

Many NBA teams are already meeting the new standards, Stern said.

The policies are to go into effect after the All-Star break. The Denver All-Star Game is set for Sunday in Denver.

Five Indiana Pacers players

### Briefs

and seven fans were charged in the Nov. 19 melee at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Mich. Players went into the stands after a fan threw a full cup of beer at the Pacers' Ron Artest.

### Stoudemire to join dunk contest; James undecided

DENVER — Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire will take part in Saturday's NBA slam dunk contest during All-Star weekend, but LeBron James is still making up his mind.

James, a starter for the Eastern Conference in Sunday's All-Star game, was not one of the four players who committed Wednesday to compete in the contest. He has a standing invitation to the NBA, but said he might take until Friday to decide.

"It is a yes or no answer," said James, who has been pressed about a decision nearly every day for the past few weeks. "I just haven't decided if I'll do it or not. I know me, I'm a last-minute person."

Stoudemire, a Western Conference All-Star, also competed during his rookie season in 2003 when he finished third. Atlanta rookie Josh Smith, and New Orleans' Chris Andersen and rookie J.R. Smith round out the field.

Andersen took part in last year's contest, but did not advance past the first round.





Warriors forward Jason Richardson celebrates in the final minute after scoring 30 points in the victory over the first-place Sonics.

# Warriors stun first-place Sonics

The Associated Press

First-place teams usually don't look forward to the All-Star break. The Seattle SuperSonics certainly weren't complaining about having a few days off after their second straight home loss.

Jason Richardson scored 30 points and Derek Fisher had 21, including five three-pointers, in Golden State's surprising 117-110 victory at Seattle.

Dale Davis had a season-high 16 points and 10 rebounds off the bench for Golden State, which ended a three-game losing streak.

Speedy Claxton added 17 points for the Warriors.

Seattle was led by its two All-Stars, Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis, with 26 and 17 points, respectively. But Allen had only four points in the second half on 2-for-8 shooting.

The Warriors scored 37 points

## NBA roundup

in the third period to turn the game.

"You can't give up 37 points in a quarter," Sonics coach Nate McMillan said. "Defensively, you're not out there."

The Sonics still finished with a 10-5 game lead in the Northwest Division at the All-Star break at 35-16.

The Warriors are 15-38, including losing streaks of nine, six and six games. And with one big victory before the break.

"I'm really happy that these guys have stuck together and they've believed in each other," first-year coach Mike Montgomery said. "Certainly we've all made some mistakes that sometimes would allow guys to kind of separate and start pointing fin-

gers. We haven't done that even though our record's not very good."

**Heat 113, Clippers 95:** Shaquille O'Neal barely was needed as the Heat won for the seventh straight game and sent the Clippers to a seventh consecutive loss — all part of their nine-game road trip, the longest in the league this season.

Damon Jones had a career-high 31 points (8-for-10 from three-point range) and Dwyane Wade added 28 points and 12 assists. O'Neal had 14 points and eight rebounds.

All five Los Angeles starters reached double figures, but couldn't overcome the Heat's 53.3 percent shooting.

**Nets 96, Kings 85:** Jason Kidd had his 64th career triple-double and Vince Carter scored 21 points for the Nets.

Carter reached 20 points for the 11th straight game and the 17th time in the past 18. Kidd finished with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double in the last six games.

Rookie Nenad Krstic scored a career-best 18 points.

Mike Bibby had 25 points to lead the Kings, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

**Cavaliers 111, Hawks 89:** LeBron James scored 28 points, fellow All-Star Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 18 points and 13 rebounds and the Cavaliers reached 30 victories before the All-Star break for just the fourth time. The last time Cleveland had 30 wins before the All-Star break was 1992-93, when the Cavs reached the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Cavaliers completed a four-game season sweep of the Hawks (10-41), who dressed only nine players and lost their 15th straight road game.

**Bulls 121, Raptors 115:** Kirk Hinrich had 28 points, Ben Gordon scored 15 in the fourth quarter and the visiting Bulls reached a season high for points. Eddy Curry added 24 points and Luol Deng had 20 for the Bulls, who have won three straight and 16 of 21.

Chris Bosh had 28 points for the Raptors, who have lost five of six.

**Celtics 90, Grizzlies 88:** At Boston, Ricky Davis hit a 12-foot jump shot with 3.9 seconds remaining for the Celtics, who have won six of eight.

Mike Miller made a three-point shot with 9.8 seconds left to tie it at 88 for the Grizzlies before Davis hit an open jumper. Miller's three-point attempt fell short at the buzzer.

**Pacers 95, Trail Blazers 87:** At Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored 27 of his season-high 36 points in the second half. Jeff Foster had 14 points and 17 rebounds, and Fred Jones added another 14 points for the Pacers.

Joel Przybilla finished with 18 points and 17 rebounds for the Trail Blazers.

**Bobcats 94, Nuggets 88:** Kareem Rush scored 14 of his 20 points in the third quarter and the host Bobcats snapped a seven-game losing streak. Keith Bogans added 18 points.

Denver was led by Carmelo Anthony's 21 points.

**Spurs 101, Hornets 78:** Tim Duncan scored 19 points and the Spurs pulled away in the fourth quarter at New Orleans, where they have never lost.

Rookie J.R. Smith led New Orleans with a career-high 25 points.

**Knicks 108, Bucks 90:** At New York, Jamal Crawford scored 23 points to lead six Knicks in double figures. The Knicks won for just the fifth time in 24 games and had their first double-digit victory margin since Dec. 29 against Minnesota.

Toni Kukoc had 20 points and Desmond Mason 18 for Milwaukee, which was without leading scorer Michael Redd (sprained index finger) for the third straight game.

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## SPORTS



Finally back on his game,  
Woods seeks No. 1 ranking and  
a breakthrough at Riviera, Page 33



Detroit's Joe Louis Arena will not host NHL games this season after the only cancellation of an entire season in North American pro sports history.

## Possibilities abound amid intensifying turmoil

By THOMAS HEATH AND  
TARIK EL-BASHIR  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When National Hockey League Commissioner Gary Bettman formally canceled the 2004-05 season on Wednesday, the league became the first major professional sport in North America to lose an entire season over labor problems, driving speculation on where the 88-year-old NHL goes from here and whether it can even survive.

The flurry of meetings and phone calls over the past few weeks between the union and NHL owners failed to stop the downward spiral that began with

■ **NHL needs to get creative to lure back fans, Page 26**

### Possible scenarios

■ The NHL declares an impasse and resumes play next season with replacement players who operate under an owner-specified salary cap. This would likely prompt the players to strike.

■ The players' union goes to court or the U.S. National Labor Relations Board to challenge the impasse, even though the NLRB has no jurisdiction over the NHL's five Canadian teams. Under a successful challenge, the union could prevent the league from resuming play, possibly forcing more negotiations and lengthening the dispute.

■ The union dissolves and players bring an anti-trust action against the owners for collusion, a tactic NFL players successfully used in 1989.

■ The players or a media mogul start a league to replace the NHL.

By The Washington Post

the owners' lockout of players five months ago, which had wiped out 830 of the 1,230 regular-season games. Now the game heads into uncharted territory.

"I know of nothing analogous to this ... one of the big, professional major sports losing an entire sea-

son," said Stan Kasten, former president of the NHL Atlanta Thrashers. "One thing I know is that there will be grave consequences that are long-lasting. It's inevitable."

The league shut down Sept. 15, when the NHL's 30 owners, tired

of what they said were intolerable financial losses, locked the doors to arenas and practice facilities until the players agreed to a cost structure that would rein in salaries. Now that it appears those doors won't reopen any sooner than the fall, the question becomes, "What's next?"

"There are all kinds of scenarios people are talking about, but they involve such drastic steps that it's hard to predict whether they will actually take them," said Gary Roberts, a former anti-trust attorney for the NFL who now teaches law at Tulane University.

Many predict that the league will make the next move by declaring an impasse and resuming play next season with replace-

SEE NEXT ON PAGE 30



Penguins owner/player Mario Lemieux believes the NHL's future in Pittsburgh relies on a labor agreement that provides cost certainty.

## Lemieux has rare view of impasse

By ALAN ROBINSON  
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — There never was any doubt where hockey's biggest name stood in the NHL lockout.

These days, Mario Lemieux is the Pittsburgh Penguins' owner first and a player second, not the other way around. Lemieux was captain of Team Canada when it won the World Cup in September but has said repeatedly the NHL has no choice but to negotiate a more favorable labor contract — even if such a deal might trim his own salary.

The only other option, he said, is to risk losing hockey in Pittsburgh and other smaller cities, where fans are weary of subsidizing big salaries in what is becoming a niche sport largely ignored by the masses.

That's why Lemieux was hopeful until minutes before Commissioner Gary Bettman

SEE LEMIEUX ON PAGE 30

**Pistons slow  
surging Iverson in  
thorough victory  
at Philadelphia;  
Warriors topple  
first-place Sonics**

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**Daytona 500 favorites  
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**Another  
demonstrative  
victory for  
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**Big Unit goes camping as spring training starts** Page 31

